

The West Coast Poverty Center at the University of Washington serves as a hub for research, education, and policy analysis leading to greater understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty in the west coast states.

A collaborative venture of the UW School of Social Work, the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, and the College of Arts and Sciences, the Center creates new opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchanges and collaboration among poverty researchers and fosters a network of poverty scholars in the west coast region.

At UW, the Center mentors the next generation of poverty scholars and practitioners through faculty awards, research assistantships and dissertation fellowships for graduate students, and graduate and undergraduate programs of study.

Beyond the university, the Poverty Center works to bring poverty-relevant knowledge to policymakers and practitioners through outreach, communications, and events.

The Center is one of three regional poverty centers funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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WEST COAST POVERTY CENTER

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POVERTY
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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

DANIEL J. EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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www.wpc.washington.edu

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West Coast Poverty Center

Advancing Poverty Research

Research Conferences: “Local Contexts and the Prospects for Second Generation Immigrants” (October 2006); “Economic Security in the 21st Century: “Old Assumptions, New Realities: Economic Security for Working Families in the 21st Century” (September 2008)

Western Poverty and Policy Small Grants for scholars studying poverty and policy issues on the west coast.

UW Seminar Series on Poverty and Public Policy for faculty and graduate students; available on our website at <http://wcpc.washington.edu/news/seminars.shtml>

West Coast Poverty Researchers Network linking poverty scholars at UW and throughout the west coast region.

Incubator Program supporting academic-practitioner research partnerships that link faculty researchers with policy practitioners/researchers in agency and community settings.

Old Assumptions, New Realities: Economic Security for Working Families in the 21st Century

Sept 10-12, 2008

At this conference WCPC and the Nancy Bell Evans Center brought together prominent scholars, government officials, and representatives from the public and private sector to engage each other on cross-cutting issues that affect working-aged individuals and their families, and how the current patchwork of services can be brought up to date to meet their needs.

Conference panelists discussed the creation of new labor market opportunities, how to bridge the skills divide, asset-building for low-income families, economic security in the global context, the role of nonprofit organizations in service delivery, and new models and government roles in policy development for working families. Conference paper will be published in an edited volume

For further information about the conference, the full list of presenters, and working papers, please visit our website at www.wcpc.washington.edu/news/conferences.shtml

Mentoring New Poverty Scholars

Emerging Poverty Scholars Grants for junior faculty at the University of Washington.

Dissertation Fellowships for UW doctoral candidates completing dissertations on poverty and policy topics.

Doctoral Courses providing training, mentorship and professional development opportunities for Ph.D. students pursuing studies relating to poverty and policy.

Masters Degree Clinic in Poverty, for students completing a Master of Public Affairs in the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs.

Recent Poverty Research Grants and Awards

“Out of Place: The Geography of the Safety Net in the West” Scott W. Allard, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, Taubman Center for Public Policy, Brown University

“State Agency and NGO Impacts on Well Being of Vulnerable Populations in West Coast States: The Case of Food Insecurity and Hunger,” Mark Edwards, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Oregon State University

Ronald C. Caldwell Jr., Department of Economics, Faculty Supervisor Shelley Lundberg, Department of Economics. “The Effects of Affirmative Action Policies in University Admissions on Human Capital Development of Minority Children: A Test of the Expectations Hypothesis.”

“State-Level Variation in Material Hardship Among Households with Children,” Colleen Heflin, Assistant Professor, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia

“Poverty, Legal Status, and Pay Basis in U.S. Agriculture,” Anita Alves Pena, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Colorado State University

“Examining the health-related effects of state-level minimum wage policies,” Kelly P. McCarrier, Department of Health and Services (Dissertation Fellowship)

“When Does Money Matter? Examining the Effect of Parents’ Perceptions of Financial Aid on Students’ College Expectations, Preparedness, and Enrollment,” Deborah Warnock, Department of Sociology (Dissertation Fellowship)

Working to increase knowledge
and awareness of the causes and
consequences of poverty and
effective approaches to reducing it
in the west coast states.

Informing Policies on Poverty

Poverty Research Flash: Summaries of new research on poverty by West Coast Poverty Center affiliates and others

Poverty Briefs: Research-based overviews of poverty issues for policymakers and practitioners

WCPC Website: Comprehensive on-line resource for researchers, students, policymakers, practitioners, and media, including poverty-related news and events; “Poverty Basics,” an overview of poverty in the U.S. and on the west coast; “Poverty Research,” providing in-depth access to WCPC affiliate research and other poverty research sources; and more: <http://wcpc.washington.edu/>

WCPC Speakers Bureau: offering expertise on poverty-related issues for policy practitioners and the media.

Speakers Bureau

The WCPC Speakers Bureau offers experts on poverty and policy-related topics to speak to policy practitioners and the media. Speaker’s Bureau topics include:

- Poverty and Childhood Development
- Child Support Policy
- Disparities in Health Care
- Social Mobility within the Workforce
- Workforce Demographics and Immigration
- Work-Life Conflict and Balance Issues
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)