

## Social and Economic Education for Development



# Welfare Reform On The Internet



Compiled by Julie N. Zimmerman

Rural and Economic Development Programs, Rural Sociology

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture

August, 1997

The world wide web has an abundance of information and resources on welfare reform. This ranges from overviews of the legislation to various resources to assist in its implementation. This listing will provide just some of the many sites where such information is available.

There are three types of web sites provided: those that are organizational homepages, those that link to general information on welfare reform, and those that link to specific resources. This is not a comprehensive list. Rather I sought to blend good organizational web sites with those that offer unique resources or information. Just type in the web address (begins with http://) into your web browser and stand back.

*(If for some reason a more detailed web address is not working for you, try the shorter organization's web address. Often, from their home page, you can find your way by clicking on the links.)*

### ***Implementing Welfare Reform***

The USDA Cooperative Extension System and the Land Grant Universities has a home page called *WRREN: The Welfare Reform Research and Education Network*. Here you can learn more about how Cooperative Extension and the Land Grant Universities are participating in welfare reform efforts. You can also learn how to subscribe to their Welfare Reform Listserv.

**<http://www.cyfernet.mes.umn.edu/welfare.html>**

Welfare reform holds particular implications for rural areas. In a recent issue of *Rural Conditions and Trends* put out by the USDA Economic Research Service (**<http://www.econ.ag.gov>**), there is a good issue and article on the implications of welfare reform for rural areas called: "*Welfare Reform Legislation Poses Opportunities and Challenges for Rural America*." You will need the reader Adobe Acrobat to read the article. It is a free program, very easy, and you can find information on how to access the program at the website.

**<http://www.econ.ag.gov/epubs/pdf/rcat/rcat.htm>**

"*Building Assets and Economic Independence Through Individual Development Accounts*" is an Issue Brief available on the National Governor's Association website (**<http://www.nga.org>**). IDAs are a new savings tool, similar to individual retirement accounts, that are aimed at building the assets of low income families.

**<http://www.nga.org/Pubs/IssueBriefs/1997/970131IndividAccount.asp>**

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (<http://www.cbpp.org>) has much information on welfare reform, including “*Changes to the Food Stamp Program Under the New Welfare Law*” which is part of their Special Report Series (<http://www.cbpp.org/fdstmp.htm>). Also available from this site is “*The Time Line for Implementing the New Welfare Law*” listing the dates for implementing different aspects of the new law.

**<http://www.cbpp.org/TIMELINE2.HTM>**

Information on *Welfare to Work* is available at several of the sites listed here. The newest addition is at the Department of Labor (<http://www.dol.gov>) web site. (Note that the web address starts with *WTW*.)

**<http://wtw.doleta.gov>**

To assist in implementing welfare reform, from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>) website is the *HHS Mailing on Welfare Reform Implementation*. This site contains background information on the new legislation and issue-by-issue information on its implementation.

**<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/welfare/wrpack.htm>**

The Urban Institute (<http://www.urban.org>) has several publications related to welfare reform on their website. In their new project ‘Assessing the New Federalism’ ([http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/anf\\_a7.htm](http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/anf_a7.htm)) you can find “*Work-Related Resources and Services: Implications for TANF*” as well as “*Welfare Reform: An Analysis of the Issues*” (<http://www.urban.org/welfare/overview.htm>). To access their publication “*A General Profile of the Welfare Population*,” you need to go to the Department of Labor (<http://www.doleta.gov>) website below.

**<http://www.doleta.gov/ohrw2w/recruit/urban.htm>**

### ***General Information on Welfare Reform***

*The Welfare Information Network* is a great “one-stop-shopping” kind of site. It also includes a “calendar of welfare reform events and activities,” and links to many other organizations and informational sites on welfare reform including welfare reform related data sources.

**<http://www.welfareinfo.org/>**

Handsnet provides an excellent one-stop-shopping website for timely information on welfare reform and its implementation. The articles in their *Welfare Reform Watch* series are current, clear, and can link you to diverse resources. You can also access previous articles posted at the site.

**<http://www.igc.apc.org/handsnet2/welfare.reform/index.html>**

As Tribes can choose either to establish independent programs or remain in state systems, available at the Department of Health and Human Services are the guidelines for Tribes (<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/welfare/guidetrb.htm> ). Also available at the National Conference of State Legislatures (<http://www.ncsl.org>) website is a summary of the first Tribal welfare plan approved.

<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/tribes.htm>

Among the numerous resources at the National Governor's Association website (<http://www.nga.org>) is the private sector working group, and the matrix "*Selected Elements of State Plans for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*" where you can compare state plans.

<http://www.nga.org/CBP/Activities/WelfareReform.asp>

The American Public Welfare Association now has the *Welfare Information Center* (<http://www.apwa.org>) which lists many resources related to welfare reform. Included in this is a list of the sequence of events that lead up to the passage of the welfare reform legislation (<http://www.apwa.org/reform/timeline.htm>).

Located at the National Association of Counties website (<http://www.naco.org>) is the *National Internet Clearing House (NICH) Welfare Reform* at the Federal, State and Local Levels. From here you can link to individual state-by-state pages that have the state government web pages for that state as well as link to data and other resources.

<http://www.naco.org/nich/index.htm>

The Children's Defense fund website (<http://www.childrensdefense.org>) also goes through states' welfare reform plans and compares some of the key features, including the penalties against families that are specified in the state welfare plans, time limits, and family violence provisions.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/stateplans.html#features>

The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>) website also has many resources. A separate web page lists all of these (<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/welfare>). Here you can also access welfare caseloads information and data (<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/tables.htm>). Particularly interesting is their comparison between the new legislation and the prior law.

<http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/isp/reform.htm>

At the National Association of Community Action Agencies (<http://www.nacaa.org>), you can find information on their *National Dialogue on Poverty*. It is another good place to find links to welfare reform resources.

<http://www.nacaa.org/welrecs.htm>

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (<http://www.iwpr.org>) has *the IWPR Welfare Reform Network*. Here you can find information on research on the impacts of welfare reform on women, sign onto their listserve, and read their newsletter online "*Welfare Reform Network News*."

<http://www.iwpr.org/WRNN.HTM>

The Twentieth Century Fund website has an online readable publication called "*Welfare Reform: The Basics*" which gives background information with pages on issues such as "Do welfare recipients avoid work?", "How much does government spend on welfare?" and "How does welfare affect family size?"

<http://www.epn.org/tcf/tcwfelf.html>

The Rural Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpage.htm>) at the National Agriculture Library also added pages on welfare reform to their website. This is a good place to go to find links to other sites on the web that focus on welfare reform.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/welfare.htm>

The Center for Law and Social Policy (<http://epn.org/clasp.html>) has produced numerous publications on welfare reform. Unfortunately, as of yet they are not available on the web. However, these are very low cost (many for only \$2.00) and you can find a list at the address below.

<http://epn.org/clasp/pubslst.html>

Among the resources at the National Conference of State Legislatures web site (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/welfare/welfare.htm>) is an easy to follow page on the work participation requirements including minimum hours and allowable activities.

<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/welfare/workreq.htm>

They also have information on constitutional issues raised by welfare reform

<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/welfare/legal.htm>

The Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting website has a short article called "*5 Media Myths about Welfare*."

<http://www.igc.apc.org/fair/extra/9505/welfare-myths.html>

Find out more about welfare reform in Kentucky (K-TAP) at the Cabinet for Families and Children Welfare Reform pages.

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/reform/reform.htm>

---

*Note: Inclusion on this list does not imply any form of endorsement by the compiler or the University of Kentucky.*

---

**SEED (Social and Economic Education for Development)** is a program of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Kentucky. Faculty draw on the resources of the Social and Natural Resources Information Laboratory and professional contacts at the the University of Kentucky, other agencies, and community programs throughout the country. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Richard C. Maurer, SEED, 500 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546 or call (606) 257-7582.

*Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serves all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.*