

Critical Acclaim for *Washington's New Poor*

This is a provocative and very timely book. Sheila Collins and Trudy Goldberg's thoughtful arguments, based on a comprehensive vision of social rights for American citizens, provide a powerful rebuttal to popular views promoting the 1996 welfare reform bill. The book is a compelling study of American social policy and must reading for those concerned about combating the rising economic inequality in the United States.

William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University

The book is an incisive primer on welfare and "welfare reform" past and present, as well as a compelling argument for the roads to more equality that should be taken in the years to come. It is an indispensable resource for anti-poverty workers, researchers, policy analysts, scholars and students—and for the general public and the public officials working to create a decent society.

Herber J. Gans, Robert S. Lyn Professor of Sociology, Columbia University and author, *The War Against the Poor*.

This provocative and thoughtful book is must reading for anyone trying to understand recent welfare policy and develop strategies for reform. Its argument that full employment must be at the core of an effective anti-poverty strategy is supported by a comprehensive and highly readable analysis of full employment, welfare, and economic policy initiatives over the past 70 years. The authors, committed to an effective safety net and the eradication of poverty, examine all the players, the critical data, and the intellectual arguments with professionalism and passion.

Henry A. Freedman, Executive Director, Welfare Law Center

Washington's New Poor Law makes a major contribution to our thinking about the interaction of work and welfare. It tackles a key question. Given the demonstrated priority of the work ethic in the history of programs for the poor, why has employment policy played such a small role? Particularly valuable is the thorough exploration of the impact of current welfare reform legislation and administration on client well-being.

June Axxin, Emeritus Professor of Social Welfare, University of Pennsylvania

While most studies of social welfare in the USA tend to describe its development, Collins and Goldberg provide not only a critical analysis of the vicissitudes of the dehumanizing AFDC program from its inception in 1935 to its demise in 1996, but they also suggest realistic alternatives which could and should have been implemented. . . . Their program provides a way out of the "welfare trap" into a reality of meaningful citizenship for all.

David G. Gil, Professor of Social Policy and Director, Center for Social Change, Heller School, Brandeis University