



FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS POLICY RESOURCE CENTER

WHAT IS FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS?

Simply put, family economic success (FES) seeks to help families overcome the economic, social, and policy barriers to achieving financial stability. Women In Government's Family Economic Success Policy Resource Center is dedicated to connecting state legislators to policy resources that support financial stability for low-income, working families.

Our current Family Economic Success portfolio includes:

- Asset Building and Financial Literacy
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Home Mortgages and Foreclosures
- Pay Disparity
- Predatory and Payday Lending
- Workforce Development

WHY FOCUS ON FAMILIES?

Families with children that are below the poverty level are at the heart of Women In Government's FES efforts. The FES Policy Resource Center shares in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's approach to strengthening low-income families and isolated communities through asset-building, family economic support programs, and workforce development.

As noted by the Casey Foundation, children in the greatest trouble in America are those growing up in poor households and in economically disconnected communities. By linking state legislators with resources on FES issues, we hope to stimulate legislative interest in family economic success issues and encourage policymakers to sponsor and co-sponsor FES legislation in their own states

For more information on Women In Government's Family Economic Success Policy Resource Center, visit:
<http://www.womeningovernment.org/familysuccess>

QUICK FACTS

- The 2009 federal poverty level for a family of four is a gross yearly income of \$22,050 or a gross monthly income of \$1,838. (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)
- In 2007, the family poverty rate and the number of families in poverty were 9.8% and 7.6 million, respectively, both statistically unchanged from 2006. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2007, married-couple families had a poverty rate of 4.9% (2.8 million), compared with 28.3 % (4.1 million) for female-householder, no-husband-present families and 13.6 % (696,000) for those with a male householder and no wife present. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2007, more than 37 million people lived below the official poverty level, which was just over \$20,000 for a family of four. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2006, the median household income for white, non-Hispanic families was \$50,673, over 1.5 times the amount for black families \$31,969. (U.S. Census Bureau)