

# Clearinghouse REVIEW

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## INSIDE:

Community Service  
Requirement for Public  
Housing Residents

Ensuring Access to  
Medicaid Benefits  
and Services

Financial Service Strategies  
for Low-Income Consumers

Federal Court Jurisdiction

The Case or Controversy  
Requirement and Other  
Preliminary Hurdles



The Human Right  
to Housing

*Sargent Shriver*  
National Center  
on Poverty Law  
Founded 1967

Taking action to end poverty

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of the organizations which employ them or of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.



## Letter from the Managing Editor

A year ago we added the name of Sargent Shriver, our founder, to our masthead. In doing so, we both honored the leader who advanced antipoverty efforts nationwide and reaffirmed the values—vision, innovation, leadership, excellence, service, action—that continue to guide the work of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.

Making this name change also raised a simple question among our constituents—Have you changed what you do?—and led us to examine and answer questions about the Shriver Center's identity. The Shriver Center had rebuilt itself into a privately funded national organization (after losing all its federal funding) that uses various tools, including advocacy, policy development, and communications, to fight poverty. For its CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW readers and website users, the Shriver Center is the communications hub for the legal aid community. For policymakers, the Shriver Center is a leader among strategists on work supports, public benefits, community investment, and housing issues. Still some of the Center's individual and institutional supporters asked questions about the Shriver Center's focus. And so the Shriver Center's board of directors and staff prepared a statement on who we are, what we do, and why we do it. We hope that this statement (found below) clarifies what the Shriver Center is, what it does, and why. I invite you to read it and send us your comments.

*Ilze Sprudz Hirsh*

**The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law,** a national resource, champions law and policy promoting equal opportunity and support for low-income individuals, families, and communities so that they can escape poverty permanently.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

The Shriver Center takes action to end poverty. From idea to law to practice to monitoring, we work to overcome the myriad issues that combine to cause poverty.

Our tools are advocacy, policy development, and communications. Together our work creates an information channel among advocates, grassroots groups, researchers, policymakers, and lawmakers. We strategically work nationwide with attorneys, advocates, and grassroots groups to define and employ best practices that make the most of antipoverty law and policy.

Our particular focus is to use our tools to maximize state-level responses to federal law and policies. Regardless of the context—limits, opportunities, or both—we help state lawmakers and advocates translate law and policies into practical solutions to benefit low-income people and society as a whole.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The experiences of low-income people drive our policy and communication agenda.

Collaboration—across subject areas and with other groups—is key to creating meaningful change.

Communication, with attorneys, other advocates, and policymakers, strengthens the network of individuals and organizations that continually push for economic and social justice.

## OUR VALUES

The values of our founder, Sargent Shriver, guide us:

**Leadership.** We believe poverty can be conquered.

**Innovation.** Working together, we find solutions.

**Service.** We are committed to advancing the cause of social and economic justice by working for the public good.

**Action.** We give forceful voice, on a daily basis, to people rarely heard.