

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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to Save Homes

EMPLOYMENT

ONE MODEL FOR BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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About This Issue

In this first issue of the forty-third volume of CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW, poverty law experts from around the country combine legal analyses, model solutions, and practice tips in articles for advocates asserting justice for low-income clients. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and federal housing legislation, the Obama administration is responding to some of the legal obstacles that the difficult economy has mounted for poor people and communities. As it takes action, the Obama administration is open to the recommendations of advocates experienced in working on behalf of low-income communities. At hand is a historical opportunity to share our advocacy community's wealth of knowledge and experience in social and economic justice with the nation's leaders so that many more invigorating changes can be made.

The Shriver Center provides national leadership in identifying, developing, and supporting creative and collaborative approaches to achieve social and economic justice for low-income people. The Shriver Center develops and advocates policies that promote health, safety, and a chance to prosper for all who live in this country. The REVIEW, one of the Shriver Center's action tools, helps build the national advocacy community's capacity and advances workable antipoverty policies. We look forward to having your thinking on these matters in the REVIEW.

Housing, employment, work supports, asset building, and the health and safety of families are critical to the chance to prosper. Home foreclosures, difficulties in obtaining or keeping jobs, and maintaining the health and safety of families cry for our attention. In this issue one author describes how advocates and community organizers in Los Angeles collaborated to save homes and led to a foreclosure prevention pilot project. Another foreclosure defense expert explains the significance of rescission and the basics of the Truth in Lending Act for advocates helping consumers facing foreclosure.

The lead article highlights a model program to remove legal barriers to employment that low-income clients frequently encounter and that the Bay Area Legal Aid's public benefits unit developed ten years ago. Other job-related challenges are described in an article on improving state driver's licensing laws and in another on applying community economic development practice to help youths create their own jobs. Other articles discuss a new juvenile behavioral health court for youths whose delinquent behavior is traceable to a mental health condition; older women of color and regulations on the self-directed option for delivery of Medicaid personal care services; and tips for vigorous representation of undocumented victims of domestic violence in state family court. Are these articles helpful? Send us your feedback. Join a discussion board on the Shriver Center's Facebook page or e-mail your suggestions to clearinghoureview@povertylaw.org. For this issue, fill out the comment form at <http://tinyurl.com/MayJuneSurvey>. Let us hear from you soon.

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CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW encourages the submission of articles from legal aid field staff and others. Send articles to Ilze Sprudz Hirsh, editor and vice president of communication programs, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, 50 E. Washington St. Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60602; ilzehirsh@povertylaw.org.

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