



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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For Immediate Release
September 15, 2008

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Breakfast Discussion on Poverty and Cities
Event Features Jodie Levin Epstein of CLASP, Rep. Tamara Grigsby and George Lightbourn

On **Wednesday, September 17**, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will host a breakfast discussion on Poverty, Economic Opportunity & Cities. The event will take place from **8 to 10 a.m. at the Milwaukee Center for Independence, 2020 W. Wells, Milwaukee**. The discussion is free and open to the public, and a light breakfast will be provided.

Data released recently by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that poverty remains higher in Wisconsin than was the case in 2000, and cities tend to bear the brunt of this trend. The discussion will focus on these questions: Is poverty back on the agenda? Why? How are cities (and states) across the country tackling poverty? What does the newly focused spotlight on poverty at the national level mean for local governments and residents?

Featured speaker Jodie Levin-Epstein is deputy director of the Washington, DC-based Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). Her focus is on working conditions—issues such as paid leave and workplace flexibility, particularly as they impact on low income workers. Her numerous CLASP publications in this area include *Getting Punched: The Job and Family Clock*; she was recently published in *Mother Load*, a special report by *The American Prospect*. She has been involved in efforts to create paid sick days legislation, working to mobilize progressive businesses to support new labor standards. Ms. Levin-Epstein has also played a key role in the re-emergence of poverty in recent public discourse. Her 2006 report *Targeting Poverty: Aim at a Bull's Eye* describes and identifies recent efforts around the nation to set targets for the elimination or reduction of poverty. In addition, Ms. Levin-Epstein is responsible for creating, managing and hosting CLASP's widely acclaimed national audio conferences on low-income and poverty issues.

The discussion will also feature responses from Rep. Tamara Grigsby and George Lightbourn of the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute. Grigsby has represented Milwaukee's 18th District in the State Assembly since 2005. Lightbourn is senior fellow at the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute and former secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

This event is co-sponsored by Community Advocates, National Association of Social Workers-WI, 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, SEIU and Social Development Commission.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, contact Vicky Selkowe at (608) 284-0580, ext. 326 or vselkowe@wccf.org.

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When: Wednesday, September 17, 8-10am
Where: Milwaukee Center for Independence, 2020 W. Wells Street
Light breakfast provided
Free and open to all