

International Perspectives on Welfare to Work Policy



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"International Perspectives on Welfare to Work Policy" presents the latest available research on the various interpretations of "welfare-to-work" in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Hong Kong, and on the role social work plays in creating and implementing social welfare policies. Pre-eminent social work scholars from around the world address the changing nature of social work policy and practice, as welfare recipients are required to work in order to receive benefits. This invaluable book examines issues of importance to practitioners and policymakers. At a time when many governments in the industrial world are reducing social expenditures and privatising social programs, "International Perspectives on Welfare to Work Policy" encourages the social work profession to be more actively involved in lobbying for social and economic policies that promote social investments, maximize opportunities, foster productive employment, ensure a decent standard of living, and make it easier for everyone to be involved in the economic, political, cultural, and social lives of their communities. The book addresses crucial issues that were raised by its contributors in 2005 at an international symposium organized by the University of California, Berkeley's School of Social Welfare, including key policy and practice

concerns for social work professionals. "International Perspectives on Welfare to Work Policy" examines: the abolition of the Aid to Families with Dependant Children program (AFDC) in the United States; the effects of welfare-to-work programs on single parents in the United Kingdom; the "new deal" offered by social inclusion in mental health policy; and the development of a program in Hong Kong that helps beneficiaries of means-tested unemployment benefits find work. "International Perspectives on Welfare to Work Policy" is an important resource for social policy educators and students working in social work, sociology, and political science.

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