Create Social Responses to a Changing Environment

Grand Challenges in Social Work, using evidence to promote social justice and well-being

The Issue

Unprecedented environmental changes threaten human health and well-being in communities worldwide. Urbanization and population growth are on the rise, and extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity. Escalating environmental threats are a social justice issue: social, economic, and environmental inequities are deeply intertwined. People in poverty, children, older adults, members of racial or ethnic minority groups, and people with a history of mental health problems are especially vulnerable to the harmful impacts of environmental change.

Societal Goal

We aim to catalyze social responses that strengthen individual and community capacities for anticipating and adapting to environmental changes, particularly for vulnerable groups, and reduce inequities in exposure to environmental risks and access to needed resources.

A Decade of Work

Over the next decade, we will ignite social work achievements focused on disaster risk reduction, environmentally displaced populations, community adaptation and resilience to environmental change, and environmental justice. We envision close partnership with diverse disciplines and sectors, and progress in all areas of social work research, policy, practice, and education.

Resources

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Network Leadership

Susan P. Kemp, PhD
Charles O. Cressey Endowed Professor
University of Washington, School of Social Work
University of Auckland, Faculty of Education and Social Work
spk@uw.edu

Lisa Reyes Mason, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Tennessee, College of Social Work
mason@utk.edu

Lawrence A. Palinkas, PhD
Albert G. and Frances Lomas Feldman Professor of Social Policy and Health, and Director, Behavior, Health and Society Research Cluster
University of Southern California, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
palinkas@usc.edu

Get involved!

Sign up to the Grand Challenges mailing list:
http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/join/

Contact: Lisa Reyes Mason
mason@utk.edu
(865) 974-6544