

## **Income Support: How Can Basic Income and Child Allowances Reduce Extreme Economic Inequality? Webinar Resources**

### **Background Readings**

Hamilton, L., & Martin-West, S. (2019). Universal basic income, poverty, and social justice: A moral and economic imperative for social workers. *Social Work*, 64(4), 321–328.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swz028>

Hamilton, L. (2020). [\*Welfare Doesn't Work: The Promises of Basic Income for a Failed American Safety Net\*](#). New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Shaefer, H. Luke, and Kathryn J. Edin.(2021) A Simple Approach to Ending Extreme Poverty. The Atlantic, June, 2021. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/06/how-to-end-extreme-child-poverty/618720/>

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What are the benefits to a basic income program?
2. If we move towards basic income as a national policy, what will this mean for the social work profession?
3. What are the difficulties and costs occurring to a child allowance/basic income program?
4. How can we address the possible problems with larger scale basic income – such as program cost and inflation?
5. If we move towards GI as a national policy, what would this mean for the social work profession?
6. Despite the billions of dollars the government spends on public assistance programs every year, racial and gender equality gaps persist. Do you think basic or guaranteed income can narrow these gaps?

## Link to Webinar Recording

[https://youtu.be/3GZtLrU\\_Q2k](https://youtu.be/3GZtLrU_Q2k)

## Presenters on Webinar

[Dylan Bellisle](#) is a doctoral student at Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. After work as a community service organizer in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, he returned to school where he is studying the ways in which the EITC is used by families in poverty .

[Leah Hamilton](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at Appalachian State University. She works in the area of economic justice and basic income.

[Joan Hunt](#) is the Pilot Director for HudsonUP, including the work of this organization in implementing a pilot basic income to Hudson residents. They are continuing to document the continuing impact of this program on recipients.

[Laura Lein](#) is a Professor and Dean Emerita from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She studies the lived experience of poverty in the United States with an emphasis on the relationships between those in poverty and the agencies and programs designed to serve them.

[Michael Lewis](#) is a Professor at the CUNY Silberman School of Social Work. He is an expert on basic income and draws on his background in applied statistics to explore economic inequality and other problems in health and poverty.

[Aisha Nyandoro](#) is the Chief Executive Officer of Springboard To Opportunities and the founder of the Magnolia Mother's Trust (an initiative of Springboard To Opportunities), providing monthly income to Black mothers living in extreme poverty.

[Luke Shaefer](#) is a Professor of Social Work and Professor of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and is the inaugural director of the University's Poverty Solutions. He works extensively with communities and policy makers on new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty.