

By providing reliable, regular, and relatively long-term financial support, policy objectives for direct cash-transfer policy interventions include reducing household financial uncertainty, increase a sense of self-efficacy, and protecting systemically vulnerable populations. This issue of *Focus on Poverty* reviews two works of guaranteed-income scholarship and “picks the brain” of one innovative scholar.

Researchers Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Lisa Gennetian, Jill Hoiting, Laura Stillwell, and Lauren Meyer examined a group of new mothers living below the poverty line who received monthly cash transfers. By tracking the expenses, experiences, frustrations, and successes of the new mothers as they “put policy into practice” throughout the first 76 months of the new child’s life, this research offers unique insights for the field of implementation science.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) was a significant source of financial support for many low-income households with children; this was also a time of significant uncertainty and stress. Researchers Clemente Pignatti and Zachary Parolin compared data from households with children of various ages and found strong positive associations between more generous direct transfers and improved well-being for parents. Effects were especially strong for younger people, women, Hispanic households, single parents, and low-income households.

Something new in this issue of *Focus On Policy* is a brief question-and-answer session with a researcher doing innovative work in their field. Lucius Couloute’s work centers on the sociology of people with first-hand experiences within the criminal legal system. This Q & A covers an array of related topics, current projects, and future research aspirations.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and welcome questions about this issue of *Focus On Poverty*.

Thank you! — The Editorial Team at IRP