

Social Policy Financing
WWS 594i
Spring 2004
Friday, 9:30-12:30pm

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Reading Materials Required:

On-line publications; citations provided.

Description of Class:

The way the federal government finances a program has profound implications on how the underlying substantive policy of the program is carried out. The federal financing structure often dictates how the program is implemented at the state or local level; it predicts the viability (both politically and monetarily) of a program; and it shapes the federal regulatory response to the law.

In this half-semester class, we will examine different ways that the federal government finances social welfare programs. Specifically, we will look at various financing models as demonstrated through the following programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant; the Child Support Enforcement program; the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG); the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX); the federal Dependent Care Tax Credit; the Food Stamp program; and the Head Start program. Each of these programs is financed differently – with components that range from pure block grant, to an entitlement/grant-in-aid structure, to a direct tax provision. Some are federal programs – paid for and administered by the federal government, while others share costs and responsibilities with the states. In examining the financing structure and rules that accompany these programs, we will learn some of the various ways that the federal government can fund social welfare programs, and the importance that the structure plays in implementing substantive policies.

Description of Individual Oral Reports and Papers: First, working in groups of 3-4, students will present orally to the class on the current financial structure of an existing program not yet covered in lecture. Second, each student will write a short (10-15 page) paper on a new approach to finance a particular federal policy. The paper will be in the form of a briefing memorandum to a U.S. Senator or Congressperson, advising him or her on the soundest financial structure for a new policy, or a change in the financing structure for an existing program. The overall grade for each student will be weighted as follows: 50% Paper; 30% Oral Presentation; and 20% Class Participation.

SYLLABUS

1. Friday, February 6, 2004

Overview of Course: Syllabus; Papers and Oral Presentations; Readings
Introduction: The federal budget process and terminology

Reading:

- Shirley L. Ruhe, Federal Budget Rules: How the Basics Apply to Low-Income Programs (Urban Institute, January 1999) (on-line at www.urban.org; go to “Research” and “By topic” in the left hand margin; Go to “Federalism” then “New Federalism”; Go to “Fiscal and Budget”; scroll down to find title).

2. Friday, February 13, 2004

Entitlement Programs versus Block Grants for Cash Assistance Programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

Reading:

- 2000 Greenbook, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, Section 7, “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families”: (Skim the charts) (on-line at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wmprints/index.html>) ; hit search and choose the “2000 Greenbook”; type “TANF” in the search field.)
- Title 42 U.S.C. § 601 *et seq.* (Read sections 601, 602, 603, 607, 608; skim remainder and skip all “History” and “Ancillary Laws” portions). (on-line at: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>)
- “Recycling an Unwise Proposal: State Concerns and New Fiscal Realities Ignored in House Republican Welfare Bill, Sharon Parrot et al., (full report) (on-line at www.cbpp.org)
- “TANF Funding and Spending Across the States,” Alan Weill, Kenneth Finegold in Welfare Reform, the Next Act (Urban Institute, 2002) (handout)

3. Friday, February 20, 2004

State-Federal Entitlement Programs and Incentive Financing: Child Support Enforcement Program

Reading:

- 2000 Greenbook, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, Section 8, “Child Support Enforcement Program”: (Skim the charts.) (on-line at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wmprints/index.html>) ; hit search and choose the “2000 Greenbook”; type “child support enforcement” in the search field.)

- Title 42 U.S.C. § 651 *et seq.* (Read §§ 651, 655, 657, 658 and skim remainder) (on-line: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>)
- Vicky Turetsky, “What if all the Money Came Home” (CLASP, June 2000) (on-line at: www.CLASP.org; Go to “Publications”; Go to “Child Support Enforcement”; Scroll down to find publication)
- “Summary of Child Support, Fatherhood and Marriage Provisions in the House and Senate Versions of H.R. 4, Nov. 2003 (on-line at www.clasp.org)

4. **Friday, February 27, 2004**

Block Grants and Tax Credits: Child Care and Development Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), and Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC).

Reading:

- 2000 Greenbook, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, Section 9, “Child Care” and Section 10, “Title XX Social Services Block Grant Program” (Skim the charts.) (on-line at (on-line at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wmprints/index.html>) ; hit search and choose the “2000 Greenbook”; type child care and title XX (respectively) in the search field.)
- Title 42 U.S.C. §§ 9801 and 9858 *et seq* (Read §§ 9858h and 9858m and skim remainder); Title 42 U.S.C. § 618; Title 42 U.S.C. § 1397a (on-line: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>).
- Long and Clarke, “The New Child Care Block Grant – State Funding Choices and Their Implications” (Urban Institute, October 1997) (on-line: www.urban.org; Go to “Research” and “By topic” in the left hand margin; Go to “Federalism” then “New Federalism”; Go to “Income Support and Social Services” and Go to “Child Care; scroll down to find title)
- “Unfinished Agenda: Child Care for Low-Income Families Since 1996: Implications for Federal and State Policy,” (Policy Brief, not entire report) (April 2002) (on-line at www.clasp.org; go to publications and 2002 child care pubs.)
- National Women’s Law Center, “New Tax Law Increases Assistance to Families with Child and Adult Dependent Care Expenses” (NWLC, June 2001) (on-line: www.NWLC.org; Go to tax section; Scroll down to find publication)

(NOTE: Reading assigned by students for Friday, March 5th should be handed out by Wednesday, March 3rd).

5. **Friday, March 5, 2004**

Students present programs (suggestions: Medicaid, CHIP, Earned Income Credit (EIC), Hope VI or Section 8 (or other) Housing programs, etc.).

Reading: As assigned by students

(NOTE: Reading assigned by students for Friday, March 12th should be handed out by Wednesday, March 10th).

6. Friday, March 12, 2004

Students present programs

Reading: As assigned by students