

CLASP seeks to improve the lives of low-income people.

Our vision is an America where children grow up safe, healthy, nurtured, and prepared to succeed; where young people and adults have the skills and supports they need to fulfill their potential and to contribute to society and the economy; where jobs provide decent wages and family friendly policies; where poverty is rare; where there is justice for all; and where all people can participate equally and their communities can prosper.

2011
ANNUAL REPORT





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From the Leadership

"The Center for Law and Social Policy." It's a big name for an organization and a large mantle to carry, but every day the staff of CLASP work to improve the lives of low-income people in effective and often unexpected ways. Working with policymakers and advocates of every ilk, CLASP truly is at the center. We are the place where policy leaders seek trusted data, research, and analysis as they work to influence legislation; we are the place where the rubber meets the road and assistance with implementation begins; and we are the place where journalists, students, and scholars turn for the research and analysis needed to understand and explain issues and fight poverty in America. In a world full of rhetoric, CLASP is a place to create real solutions.

And 2011 was no exception. Through CLASP's technical assistance, states benefitted from the critical expertise necessary to apply for new funding for quality early childhood education programs available through the federal Race to the Top initiative. Likewise, CLASP helped Connecticut and Seattle advocates get laws passed that allow workers to earn sick days. And new tools developed by CLASP, like the Turnover Calculator, allow business owners, policymakers and others to evaluate the impact of their leave policies. These are just a few examples of how CLASP takes good policy and makes it applicable in the lives of real people.

The economic crisis continues its profound effect on low-income communities, particularly where there are already deeply entrenched patterns of poverty and unemployment. Our work to assure the extension of federal unemployment benefits provided some security for those without jobs. Likewise, passage of *The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act* will help people keep jobs through work sharing programs during this unstable economy. We helped defeat a proposal in the U.S. House of Representatives that would have eliminated critical resources for poor and low-income youth, families, and communities—resources like employment and education training programs. Every victory is valuable and hard won. CLASP will continue to work tenaciously so that those hardest hit by the recession gain relief, opportunities, and hope that life will not always be this hard.

Education is one of the best escape routes from poverty. That is why CLASP worked to build programs that pave the way for healthy development and success in academics and the workplace.

Our efforts included helping achieve federal policies to increase funding for and encourage states to create high-quality early childhood systems, along with the successful preservation of the Pell Grant program. We also began the Benefits Access for College Completion initiative with the American Association of Community Colleges that seeks to determine if low-income students receiving coordinated income supports (public benefits and refundable tax credits) stay in school longer and complete their studies faster.

Strong families and strong communities offer everyone a chance to succeed. CLASP continues its advocacy for comprehensive reform in the child welfare arena, with the goal of spending tied to the outcomes we want for children and their families. This year, we strategically used consideration of federal child welfare waiver renewal to shape the legislation to be a launching pad for our broader reform efforts.

Steadfast and often working behind the scenes to fulfill our mission, CLASP will probably remain nameless to the mother confidently dropping off her child at an early learning center, to the high-school student gaining the skills that lead to a family-supporting job, to the child for whom interventions prevented abuse, to the worker avoiding unemployment thanks to work sharing, and to the communities benefitting from healthier, better-educated, and well-employed members. We know the policies that created these opportunities and the policies that still need to be enacted. With your help, we will work to build them and put them into practice.

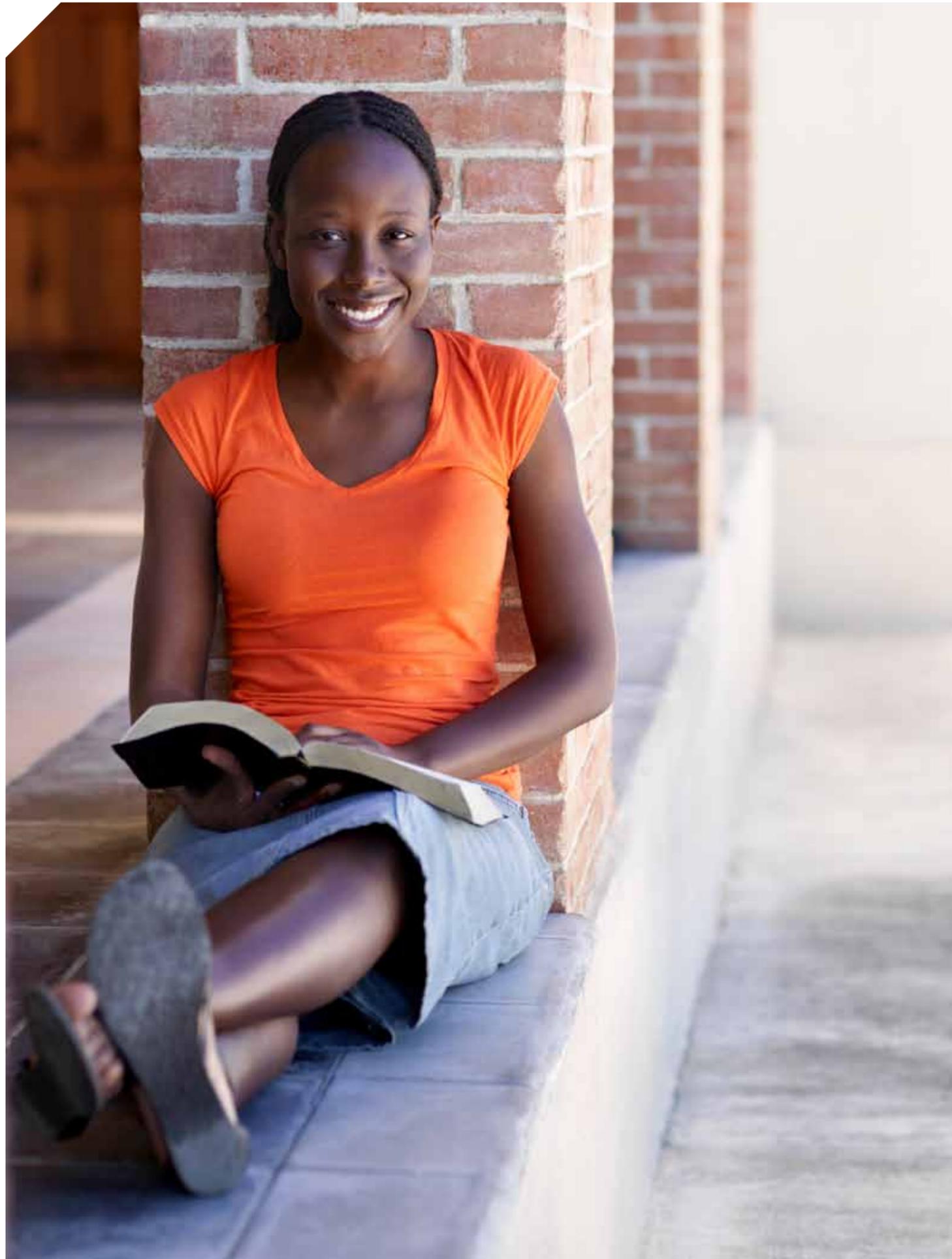
Sincerely,



Alan W. Houseman
Executive Director



Joseph Onek
Board Chair



Creating & Protecting Job & Education Opportunities in Washington's Tense Political Environment

Despite the best legislative work of advocates and policymakers, today's rancorous policy-making climate is chilling, making it difficult to achieve quality jobs legislation that can zero in on economically distressed communities and the long-term unemployed. CLASP has addressed key employment and education issues that aim to empower all for a successful and productive future.

PAVING A PATHWAY TO WORK

In 2011, CLASP worked to protect the income of and present job opportunities for millions of low-income Americans struggling through the worst job market in a generation. CLASP's correspondence, meetings with White House staff, and policy briefs strongly supported President Obama's inclusion of the Pathways Back to Work Fund in his *American Jobs Act* and the subsequent introduction of this proposal as a free-standing bill in both the House and Senate. While this proposal, which would have provided funding for subsidized jobs and other promising and research-based work and learning opportunities, was not enacted, we helped keep the need for job creation targeted at the most disadvantaged workers on the policy agenda. CLASP also worked with a diverse coalition to support

the extension of federal unemployment benefits for jobless workers.

The nation has dealt with an unemployment rate stuck over 8 percent since 2009, and policymakers simply cannot allow this to become a new normal. At the time of this report's writing, nearly 13 million people are jobless and close to 8.2 million more are underemployed. More than one-third of the unemployed have been jobless for a year or more. Given these challenges, CLASP will continue to urge Congress to take action to meet the needs of long-term unemployed and disadvantaged individuals.

Working in what is sure to be a difficult and long battle over future funding and the budget, CLASP continues to champion investments in education and workforce programs that help people prepare for work, build skills and find jobs in a tough labor market.

The nation has dealt with an unemployment rate stuck over 8 percent since 2009, and policymakers simply cannot allow this to become a new normal.

MAKING THE CASE FOR INCOME SUPPORTS

We also continue to advocate strongly for income and work supports that help families meet their basic needs. As part of this work, in 2011 we highlighted the role of public benefits and income supports in reducing poverty and hardship during the recession and the need for improved benefits access strategies, including through

changes anticipated in health care reform implementation.

As co-convenor of the Coalition for Access and Opportunity, CLASP issued two major reports, one focusing on the opportunities to leverage health care reform to improve access to benefit programs, and another setting out a vision for a 21st century model of benefits eligibility determination.

HELPING EMPLOYERS PREVENT LAYOFFS THROUGH INNOVATIVE POLICY

With job growth still sluggish, it's critical that employers have options to prevent layoffs. *The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act*, signed into law by President Obama in February 2012, marks a major breakthrough for work sharing, which gives employers an innovative alternative to laying off workers.

Thanks to CLASP's leadership on this issue for many years, *The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act* provides:

- Employers the ability to reduce employee hours, allowing those workers to receive pro-rated unemployment benefits to help offset lost wages;
- Updates and clarifications to short-time compensation provisions in federal law for the first time in 20 years; and

- Nearly \$500 million in temporary funding to states to start or expand work sharing programs.

Michigan and New Jersey became the most recent additions to the ranks of states with work sharing programs—bringing the total number to 25 states and the District of Columbia.

Currently, CLASP provides technical assistance to three more states. Additional states are expected to ramp up efforts to expand work sharing in the late summer and early fall of 2012, and CLASP stands ready to be a strong resource to them. Work sharing programs help states and communities have a plan in place that keeps workers on the job now, while the economy is still fragile, and prepares states for future economic downturns.

Michigan and New Jersey became the most recent additions to the ranks of states with work sharing programs—bringing the total number to 25 states and the District of Columbia.



Overall, “work sharing is a way to reduce the human costs of a recession,” said Neil Ridley of the Center for Law and Social Policy, a research and advocacy group for low-income people. “Just as unemployment insurance keeps people from falling into poverty, work sharing also helps keep people out of poverty due to job loss.”

New Program Cuts Hours Instead of People, Helps Older Workers
April 7, 2011 | By Diane Cadrain | AARP Bulletin



DRIVING NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISCONNECTED YOUTH

Right now, 6.7 million young people between 16 and 24 years old are disconnected from school and work in America. These youth miss out on opportunities to develop new skills, build experiences, and do better for themselves and their families. Over the last several years, CLASP has worked aggressively at the national level to draw attention to the situation of these youth and drive federal policy to reconnect them to education and labor market opportunities. Unfortunately, education and workforce programs targeting youth have become prime targets for cuts. In 2011, CLASP joined nearly 60 other organizations at a news conference and in other venues to tell Congress that proposed cuts would harm America's children and youth. Through unified advocacy, the coalition defeated a proposal in the U.S. House of Representatives that would

have eliminated critical resources for poor and low-income youth, families and communities, including the Department of Labor's Youthbuild program and the Career Pathways Innovation Fund.

The Obama administration shared this concern, launching the new White House Council for Community Solutions to address the serious needs of disconnected youth. When the Council released its final report in the summer of 2012, we were thrilled to see that many of the recommendations CLASP and the Campaign for Youth (which CLASP co-chairs) championed were on the list, including:

- Drive development of successful cross-sector community collaboratives;
- Create shared national responsibility and accountability;
- Engage youth as leaders in the solution; and
- Build more robust on-ramps to employment.

6.7 million young people between 16 and 24 years old are disconnected from school and work in America.

MAKING THE CASE FOR ADULT STUDENTS

Today's America is different than 30 years ago. A clear sign of the changing tide is the average college student, who increasingly is older, employed, and responsible for contributing to or supporting a family. To ensure employers have the skilled and educated workforce they need to stay globally competitive, the country's policies have to keep up with the changing student population's needs.

In 2011, CLASP and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems released the report *Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College* to highlight this trend's policy implications. Congress, state governments and colleges need not only to recognize that adult students make up a substantial and growing portion of the undergraduate student population, but also be aware that federal funding for adult education, job training and career and technical education has to be adequately maintained.

FIGHTING TO SAVE PELL GRANT FUNDING

Millions of low-income college students and those earning postsecondary credentials will continue their studies thanks in part to our efforts to preserve funding and stop eligibility cuts in the federal Pell Grant program. In 2011, 9 million low- and modest-income students were able to afford a college education or career training because they received a need-based Pell Grant. But policymakers in Congress have failed to adequately fund the program, which has grown in large part due to the recession. Many legislators have proposed deep cuts to suppress funding to pre-recession levels.

CLASP was a founding member of a coalition that successfully campaigned to preserve almost the entire program's funding and eligibility provisions. President Obama cited the coalition's triumph to encourage advocates to fight for other economic justice priorities.



ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

A new brief, "Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College," released by the Center for Law and Social Policy and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, demonstrates why, in light of this trend and the changing economy, ensuring more adults have access to and complete college is critical for the nation's continuing economic competitiveness. By 2018, the demand for college-educated workers will rise 16 percent, while demand for other workers will stay flat. At the same time, nearly two-thirds of jobs in 2018 will require some post-secondary education or training.

—June 30, 2011, Huron Daily Tribune



Comprehensive financing reform continues to be a central focus of our child welfare work today.

Preserving & Improving Protections for Children

During the last decade, between 750,000 and 1 million children were abused or neglected each year. This terrible reality demands attention, but the right attention. About 70 percent of child maltreatment is neglect, not the horrific stories of abuse often featured in the news. Thus, interventions that improve parents' abilities to nurture and meet the basic needs of their children can reduce the need for foster care and save money in the long run. Because the bulk of child welfare funding in the United States currently becomes available only after abuse or neglect has occurred, we need to turn our financing structure on its head. We must step in and provide the right help—before children are harmed—by:

- Making new investments, particularly in prevention, early intervention, and treatment services; and
- Redirecting existing resources to more effective interventions for children and families.

Waivers allow child welfare demonstration projects to redirect funds and test new approaches to serving children and families. They are not intended to infuse new resources into the child welfare system. In 2010 and 2011, Congress considered whether to reinstate waiver authority in the child welfare arena. CLASP had two broad concerns with the initial proposal: (1) waivers could stop momentum for more

comprehensive reforms by suggesting waivers would solve the problems or that further solutions should wait until the waivers were completed; and (2) if waivers were to be renewed, they needed to include better tracking of outcomes for children who come to the attention of child welfare agencies without being placed in foster care and the full cost of achieving such outcomes. CLASP's Director of Child Welfare Policy, Rutledge Q. Hutson, testified about these concerns and made recommendations before the U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support.

Following that testimony, CLASP worked closely with congressional staff on both sides of the aisle as they drafted and negotiated legislation to reinstate waiver authority in conjunction with reauthorizing Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, which provides modest but critical funding for child welfare services including prevention and early intervention services. Through these efforts, CLASP:

- Shaped the legislation, known as the *Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act*, that was enacted in September 2011;
- Influenced Department of Health and Human Services' guidance on how to compete for waiver authority created under the law; and, most importantly
- Set the stage for CLASP's work to comprehensively reform child welfare financing in America so we achieve better outcomes for children and families.

While the needs for improvement to the child welfare system are significant, the law marks an important step toward progress. Comprehensive financing reform continues to be a central focus of our child welfare work today.



Providing Tools & Expertise to Help States & Communities Create Positive Change

CLASP serves as a bridge between federal policies and the states and communities that put these policies into practice. Our staff members—many of whom played a role in Washington to craft the legislation and subsequent policies—are acknowledged experts in guiding state and local officials as they implement federal policies to improve the lives of low-income people.

HELPING ADVOCATES EXPAND AND IMPROVE CHILD CARE

CLASP works hand-in-hand with hundreds of national, state, and local child advocacy organizations to support low-income children's access to high-quality child care and early education. To enhance the efficacy and efficiency of our work and those we assist, CLASP created an online budget advocacy resource page where child advocates can find custom state fact sheets with information on child care and Head Start funding, children served in these programs, child poverty rates, and the impact of state cuts.

CLASP staff also provided analysis of the child care subsidy program for advocates to use in efforts to sustain or increase state child care funding. In addition to building strong environments in which kids can thrive, quality child care provides safe, supervised environments, giving low-income parents peace of mind as they work and provide for their families.

Expert technical assistance and the successful advocacy of CLASP and its allies also led to funding increases for Head Start and Early Head Start, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant, helping to ensure low-income children have access to high-quality early education settings.

Quality child care provides safe, supervised environments, giving low-income parents peace of mind as they work and provide for their families.



ACHIEVING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Quality education is essential for workers to advance their careers and adequately provide for their families and is also critical to ensuring our workforce is competitive within the global economy. The journey to career success, however, starts much earlier than many realize. Research shows that long before children arrive even in elementary school, far too few have had access to high-quality settings that prepare them to succeed in school and in life.

High-quality early learning is particularly beneficial for low-income children and those most at risk of school failure, with the quality of a program being most important to a young child's development. Much of CLASP's work in 2011 helped develop and clarify the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge, a new federal grant program to encourage states to create integrated, high-quality early childhood systems.

CLASP's work encompassed:

- Advocating for program funding;
- Improving legislative and regulatory language;
- Developing materials to help states understand the challenge's intent;
- Promoting the inclusion of infants and toddlers; and
- Ensuring that system reforms would include comprehensive services such as health and mental health, dental, and family support for low-income and disadvantaged children.

To help states win the newly available funds, CLASP's technical assistance focused primarily on:

- Helping states think through the development or expansion of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS);
- Finding and understanding data to identify where states' most vulnerable children—low-income children, infants and toddlers, English Language Learners, and children with special needs—are being served, so they can incorporate those settings into their QRIS design; and
- Highlighting the needs of English Language Learners.

In December 2011, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services granted nine states \$500 million to build high-quality early childhood systems. In 2012, the Departments will allow five states that nearly won grants to apply for an additional \$133 million.



TAKING POLICY TO PRACTICE IN COMMUNITIES

A key focus of CLASP's work is aiding communities in expanding services to disconnected and disadvantaged youth through technical assistance and advocacy in communities making policy or programmatic changes.

Just some of our community-level work in 2011 included:

- Advising the City of Los Angeles' Community Development Department on its *Back on Track Initiative*, a city-wide dropout recovery system designed to bring back many of the city's dropouts and

reengage out-of-school youth in high-poverty neighborhoods;

- Counseling Capital Workforce Partners and the State Commission on Children in Hartford, Conn. on the development of statewide comprehensive youth employment legislation; and
- Facilitating the Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth (CCRY) Network, which allows communities to exchange best practices, advocacy ideas, and to expand cross-system approaches that help youth who have dropped out of school or want to get back on track.

CLASP's work is aiding communities in expanding services to disconnected and disadvantaged youth.



HELPING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Regardless of age or gender, growing numbers of college students face challenges paying tuition, balancing school and work, and raising or helping families. Many students are low-income and many are enrolled in community colleges. For these students, public benefits—including child care subsidies, food and nutrition assistance, tax credits, etc.—can be an important bridge to college success. Unfortunately, students often don't know where to look for help or are unaware of available assistance.

Public benefits and refundable tax credits can help low-income students, who now make up 40 percent of the student population, fill the gap between financial aid and the resources needed to attend college. In recognition of CLASP's extensive background in both postsecondary education and benefits policy, a consortium of funders reached out

to CLASP and the American Association of Community Colleges and asked us to spearhead the Benefits Access for College Completion initiative, which will determine if low-income students receiving coordinated income supports stay in school longer and complete their studies faster. Through the initiative, seven community colleges will receive assistance to:

- Develop models to screen and deliver public supports to eligible students;
- Work in partnership with state and county postsecondary and human services agencies; and
- Advocate for public benefits policy reforms to improve access for college students.

This initiative aims to help students swiftly and successfully complete their studies, land jobs earning family-sustaining wages, and avoid the need for public supports in the future.

Public benefits—including child care subsidies, food and nutrition assistance, tax credits, etc.—can be an important bridge to college success

MAKING DOLLARS AND SENSE THROUGH IMPROVED JOB QUALITY

What if going to work meant jeopardizing the health of your co-workers and customers? What if work obligations forced you to leave a child with a 103 degree fever alone at home, hoping the fever will break and you won't have to visit the Emergency Room after your shift ends? And what if taking a day off from work to care for illness would mean forgoing a day's wages, or even risking your job? For 40 percent of the private sector workforce, these aren't "what if" situations—they are everyday realities because there's a lack of legislation ensuring workers have earned sick days. For hard-working, low-income families, it's a terrible position. But CLASP believes that good public policy can change it.

In 2011, Connecticut and Seattle joined San Francisco and Washington, D.C. to become the only places in America with earned sick days laws on the books. With its partners across the country, CLASP is building momentum for more local and state earned sick days laws, and working to expand paid time off at the federal level through pending legislation like the *Healthy Families Act*.

A key strategy CLASP champions—engaging businesses in support of earned sick day policies—has taken off and become a top tier priority for advocates nationwide who saw the critical role business support played in solidifying the Connecticut and Seattle laws. CLASP's approach is two-pronged:

- Build deep relationships with businesses that give a bottom line perspective on these policies; and
- Arm advocates around the country with the resources and information they need to successfully engage local businesses in their communities.

One of our resources developed in 2011, the Turnover Calculator, helps businesses understand the value of good workplace policies. Developed by CLASP and the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), the Turnover Calculator allows businesses to examine wages, weekly hours, and recruiting and hiring costs to calculate the price of turnover for different categories of workers. It considers typical hourly or annual pay as well as how employers fill vacancies and how long it takes new employees to become proficient in a position.

The Turnover Calculator helps human resource managers and small business owners understand the true cost of turnover and the importance of solid workplace policies that reduce turnover. Policies that expand job quality, like earned sick leave, lead to improved employee loyalty and morale and less turnover. Improving job quality is good for business—and workers.



A day missed from work can mean a loss of a day's wages and sometimes a job," says Jodie Levin-Epstein, deputy director of the Center for Law and Social Policy, who has worked on poverty reduction for over twenty years. "Paid sick days make a big difference to low income families."

— The Nation, September 19, 2011



PROJECTING POLICY'S EFFECTS ON POVERTY

With tight budgets, results matter more than ever. One result CLASP is working toward is reducing poverty and expanding opportunity in America—and now there's a tool to help measure policy's results on poverty.

The Poverty Impact Projection is an emerging tool that asks and answers the question at the forefront of the policy process: "If we pursue this policy, how much should it increase or decrease poverty?"

While no law in the U.S. yet requires Poverty Impact Projections, a number of states and communities have begun this kind of analysis and bills have been introduced in a few state legislatures and the U.S. Congress.

Getting a clearer prognosis of the potential impact of a pending policy is valuable to elected officials when voting on bills, and to policymakers and community stakeholders when they make planning and implementation decisions.

But there's much advocates and policymakers still don't know about how to use Poverty Impact Projections. In 2011, CLASP put together a comprehensive brief to explain the basics of Poverty Impact Projections. The resource answered questions like:

- What is a Poverty Impact Projection?
- Where have they been undertaken in the U.S.?
- Are there other policy factors that could inform Poverty Impact Projections?
- And what are some key considerations in structuring a Poverty Impact Projection?

We're keeping up the work. In 2012, CLASP is leading a series of national audio conferences highlighting anti-poverty work and expansion of Poverty Impact Projections in cities across the country.



USING DATA TO EXPAND THE HORIZONS FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

Data can be a powerful tool in helping stakeholders understand the breadth and depth of a situation—and make the case for change. In 2011, CLASP launched its Keeping Youth Connected series to:

- Highlight the scope of youth distress in 20 urban communities where some of the nation's largest school districts are located and that have high rates of child poverty and/or large minority groups; and
- Disaggregate data by race and gender when possible to highlight the specific issues facing boys of color in these communities.

Advocates and leaders of change are using these resources to make the case for increased support for educational and employment services for youth, and collaboration between systems to make that

happen. The Keeping Youth Connected briefs and accompanying resources also help set benchmarks for measuring success.

As a result of our leadership on policy issues influencing youth of color, in 2011 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sought CLASP as a partner in the development of its Vulnerable Populations Portfolio initiative, called Forward Promise. The initiative specifically targets the educational, health, and employment needs of middle- and high-school-aged boys of color. To help inform the Foundation's initiative, CLASP engaged national, state, and local stakeholders in identifying pressing policy issues that alter outcomes for boys of color. We held roundtable discussions with other experts across the country and used online resources to engage hundreds of thought-leaders on youth issues. Although the initiative is new, our work has helped shape its vision for boys of color for years to come.

CLASP engaged national, state, and local stakeholders in identifying pressing policy issues that alter outcomes for boys of color

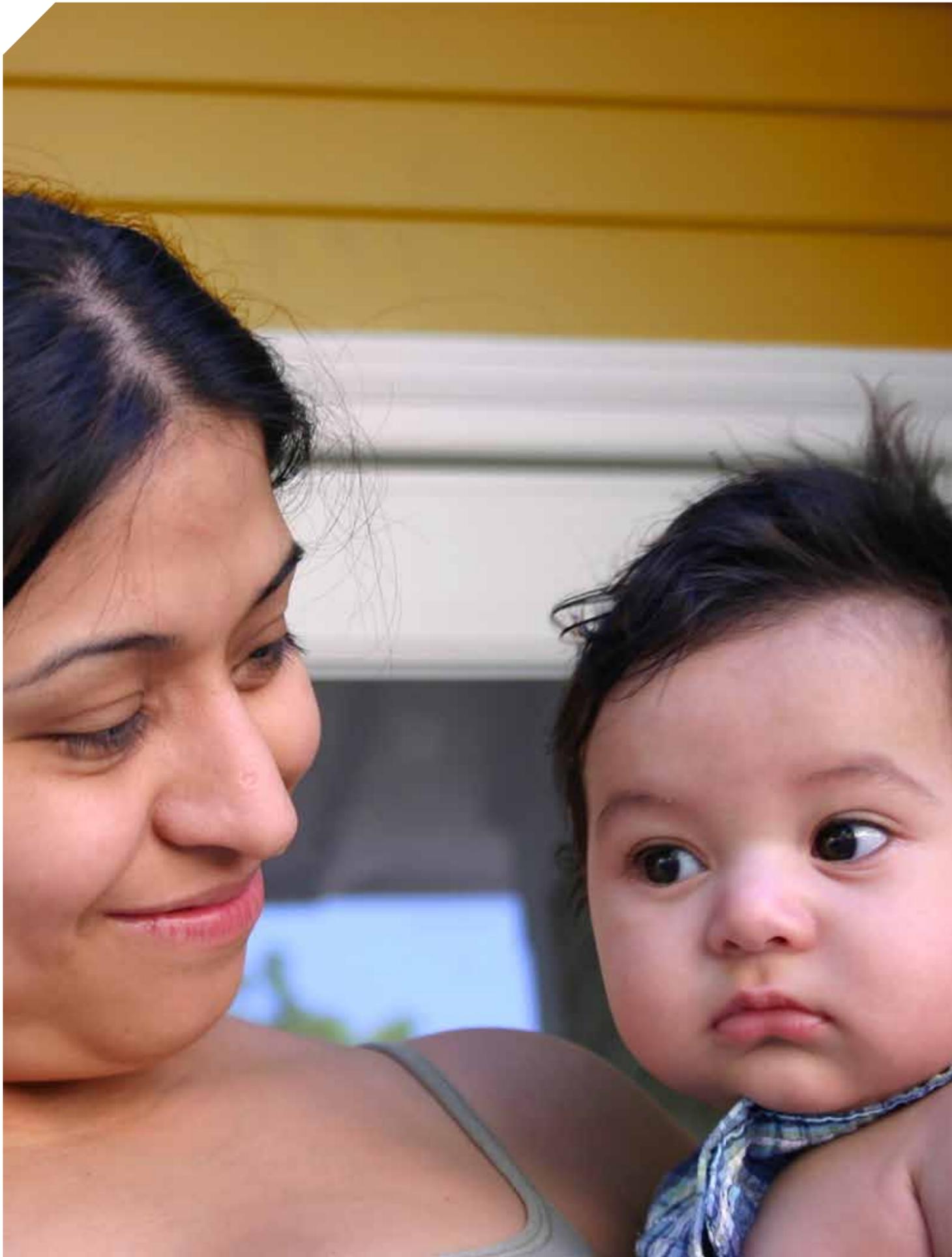


Building Consensus Around Child Welfare Financing Reform

For the last eight years, along with the Children's Defense Fund, CLASP has co-convened the Partnership to Protect Children and Strengthen Families to develop a vision of comprehensive reform that all major stakeholders in the child welfare community can support. Those currently participating in the Partnership discussions include:

- national organizations representing public and private child welfare agencies;
- unions;
- judges and courts;
- national advocates for adoption, kinship care, and foster care;
- advocates for prevention and early intervention services; and
- former foster youth.

Working closely with those in the Partnership, CLASP is leading the way to a vision for how to better meet the needs of families and keep kids safe and healthy.



Framing the Public Debate on Opportunity in America

As a leading voice for low-income people, CLASP is well positioned to set the agenda on important policy discussions affecting the nation's most vulnerable families and workers. An important way we do so is by creating spaces to share innovative and forward-thinking ideas. Through forums, webcasts and digital media, we're expanding the discussion on how to tackle poverty in America and promote real opportunity for all.

KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY

Since 2008, CLASP has managed *Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity: The Source for News, Ideas and Action*, one of the nation's leading sources for the latest thinking and media coverage on poverty policy. *Spotlight* brings together people of disparate political views to present their ideas about and solutions to poverty. Spearheaded by CLASP Deputy Director Jodie Levin-Epstein, *Spotlight* harnesses the power of Twitter and email lists of more than 23,000 strong. *Spotlight* is a communications platform that translates into action. From *Spotlight*

webcasts that helped a local community engage youth to start a movement, to a commentary that led a nonprofit to approach a community funder about Social Impact Bonds, our information can propel next steps in promoting opportunity.

In recent interviews by independent evaluators with 30 policymakers, media, funders, and others, *Spotlight's* role as a sought-after one-stop shop became evident. *Spotlight* was named more frequently than any other resource as the place interviewees go for this type of up-to-date information, bipartisan opinion, and new ideas about how to address poverty.

Spotlight harnesses the power of digital media to engage a bipartisan audience.



PRESENTING GROUNDBREAKING IDEAS

Our 2011 policy series, Policy and Promise for Low-Income People in America, engaged and welcomed hundreds of thought leaders from the policy, research, and advocacy arenas to discuss and debate the most promising strategies to strengthen children, youth, and families; create pathways to good jobs; and expand opportunity and equal justice for low-income communities. The often standing-room-only discussions included:

Racial Equity and Federal Policy

“Why is it divisive to focus on race-specific programs or talk about race? The stock explanation is that race does not matter. But even if race does not matter, why is such an approach seen as divisive?” These and many other questions about race and policy are explored in *Postracialism or Targeted Universalism*, a paper by John A. Powell, who was one of the distinguished speakers in our event on racial equity and federal policy.

Developing America’s Workforce: Learning from 40 Years of Policy and Practice to Inform the Next Generation

President Obama has prioritized creating a competitive workforce to meet a changing global economy. While employers are beginning to hire again, structural problems in the labor market will continue to keep unemployment levels high in the coming years and limit economic mobility for low-income workers. This high-level bipartisan discussion explored lessons we can draw from the last four decades of workforce policy to help the nation effectively navigate its immediate and long-term labor market challenges.

The Promise and Challenge of Evidence-Based Policy

With an increasing focus on evidence-based policy and practice to justify public expenditures, this discussion explored the different types of evidence policymakers and practitioners have available to them and which types of evidence best inform differing policy and practice choices. We were delighted to have two renowned experts guide us through this topic—Gordon Berlin, President of MDRC, and Lisbeth Schorr, Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy and Lecturer in Social Medicine at Harvard University.



Preserving Legal Aid

CLASP remained at the forefront of the national effort to preserve and improve the civil legal assistance system. We continued to represent civil legal aid programs before the Board of the Legal Services Corporation and provided information and assistance to over 100 civil legal aid programs. In addition,

we authored a paper and presented it at a 2011 forum on the future of civil legal aid sponsored by the Center for American Progress. We also prepared an overview of civil legal aid in the United States that was presented at the International Legal Aid Group Conference in Helsinki, Finland. Finally, working with the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, CLASP worked in Congress to prevent cuts in funding for the Legal Services Corporation and its grantees.

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National Legal Aid and Defender Association	The Urban Institute
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Creative Benefits Services Inc.	Graphic Visions	Native American Rights Fund	PolicyLink	The Hatcher Group
			Poverty and Race Research Action Center (PRRAC)	

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

REVENUE

Foundation grants	\$5,074,560
Contributions	50,402
Investment income	47,884
Other revenue	15,648
Total revenue	5,188,494

EXPENSES

Program Services	5,251,478
Supporting Services:	
<i>Management and General</i>	30,853
<i>Fundraising</i>	174,346
Total supporting services	205,199
Total expenses	5,456,677
Change in net assets before other item	(268,183)

OTHER ITEM

Provision for deferred rent abatement	(33,444)
Change in net assets	(301,627)
Net assets at beginning of year	5,396,134

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR

\$5,094,507

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,837,704
Investments	719,278
Receivables:	
<i>Grants receivable, current portion</i>	1,212,485
<i>Other</i>	19,974
Prepaid expenses	143,729
Total current assets	4,933,170

Furniture and Equipment

Equipment	276,012
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(153,147)
Net furniture and equipment	122,865

Non-Current Assets

Grants receivable, net of current maturities	500,000
Deposits	39,160
Total non-current assets	539,160
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,595,195

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Capital lease obligation, current portion	\$11,430
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	101,928
Accrued salaries and related benefits	189,989
Total current liabilities	303,347

Non-Current Liabilities

Capital lease obligation, long-term portion	54,270
Deferred rent abatement	143,071
Total non-current liabilities	197,341
Total liabilities	500,688

Net Assets

Unrestricted	850,715
Temporarily restricted	4,243,792
Total net assets	5,094,507
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$5,595,195