

**October 16 – 17, 2018**  
**The Wink Hotel | Washington, D.C.**

### OCTOBER 16

**7:30am – 8:30am:** **Breakfast** (City Center Ballroom)

**8:30am – 9:00am:** **Welcome and opening remarks** (New Hampshire Room)

*Speaker: Elizabeth Lower-Basch, CLASP*

**9:00am – 9:15am:** **Table introductions**

What state are you from? Right now, what do you see as your biggest threat and your biggest opportunity?

**9:15am – 10:30am:** **What is administrative advocacy and what has been accomplished with the ASAP project?** (New Hampshire Room)

This session will provide a brief overview of administrative advocacy, followed by a panel discussion. Panelists are grantees of the Advancing Strategies to Align Programs (ASAP) project, which is now in its fourth year. This panel will discuss the work of ASAP grantees over the course of the project, highlighting significant wins at the administrative level to increase access to benefits, exploring the lessons learned from this work, and presenting an honest dialogue about the challenges of the work.

*Moderator: Suzanne Wikle, CLASP*

*Panelists: Louise Hayes, Community Legal Services  
Vicky Negus, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
David Kane, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles  
Sovereign Hager, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty  
Jill Hanken, Virginia Poverty Law Center*

**10:30am – 10:45am:** **Break**

**10:45am – 12:00pm:** **Approaching this work with a racial equity lens** (New Hampshire room)

Americans' views about Medicaid, SNAP and other benefit programs are often filtered through a framework of race, and both policies and administrative practices frequently have disparate impact. In this session, we will explore what it means to approach administrative advocacy for benefit access through a racial equity lens, and hear from different participants about how they

incorporate racial equity into their work.

**Moderators:** *Nia West-Bay & Carrie Welton, CLASP*

**12:00pm – 1:30pm:**

**Lunch / Anticipated new public charge rule and the role of state advocates**

(City Center Ballroom)

CLASP and NILC staff will explain public charge and implications of the new proposed rule. Dr. Uwemedimo will share how the proposed rule will affect her patients, both directly and through a chilling effect. The session will close with an overview of the Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) campaign and what advocates can do over the coming weeks to push back on this dangerous policy proposal.

**Speakers:** *Madison Hardee, CLASP*

*Dr. Omolara Uwemedimo*

*Connie Choi, National Immigration Law Center (NILC)*

**1:30pm – 1:45pm:**

**Break**

**1:45pm – 3:00pm:**

**Concurrent sessions**

**Advocating against proposals that take Medicaid away from people who don't meet work requirements** (New Hampshire Room)

The list of states seeking to impose new barriers to coverage through so-called "work requirements" is anticipated to grow in 2019. This session will help advocates develop and carry out strategies to:

- Prevent proposals from being adopted during state legislative sessions;
- Push back on proposed waivers;
- Make optimal use of state and federal comment periods, and;
- If necessary, take steps to explore litigation and monitor implementation.

This deep-dive discussion will draw on the experience of attendees to share how advocacy efforts have played out in their states. Whether your state has already submitted a waiver to CMS or you anticipate this issue coming up in your state in 2019 this session will help you think through advocacy strategies to combat dangerous proposals that limit access to Medicaid.

**Moderator:** *Suzanne Wikle, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Judy Solomon, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

*Jessica Schubel, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

**Translating policy to action: How local office operations influence access and client experience** (New Hampshire Room)

How laws and policies are implemented at the local level greatly influences client access to benefits. What does a client experience when they apply for benefits? How long do they have to wait in an office or on the phone? Do they have to apply and submit verifications multiple times to get benefits? How do the eligibility systems and office culture influence client access to benefits? This

session will explore key questions advocates should ask, how to go about seeking answers, and how to influence this key part of the eligibility and enrollment system.

**Moderator:** *Elizabeth Lower-Basch, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Jennifer Wagner, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
*Alicia Huguelet, Greater Chicago Food Depository*

### **Unleashing the power of data: How to get it, what to look for, and how to use it** (Dupont Room)

Reports and data are powerful tools to identify what is going right and not so right in state and local agencies. Plus, data can give you something to talk about with state officials. This session will discuss what data is essential when assessing the health of a public benefits system, how to obtain data (including where to find publicly available information and crafting requests to agencies), what questions to ask, and how to use that information to inform advocacy efforts. Attendees will analyze and discuss data examples and hear from advocates about the role data plays in their work.

**Moderator:** *Renato Rocha, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Dottie Rosenbaum, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
*Louise Hayes, Community Legal Services (Pennsylvania)*

**3:00pm – 3:15pm:**

**Break**

**3:15pm – 4:45pm:**

### **Rotating Roundtables**

(New Hampshire Room)

1. County-administered states (will only meet once, during the first 45 minutes)
2. Supporting Low-Income Students
3. Benefits and the justice system
4. Elderly/disabled access to SNAP

(City Center Ballroom)

5. Partnering with litigators
6. Workforce development and alternatives to work requirements
7. Public charge

An additional roundtable could be added based on feedback from our morning sessions.

**5:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Reception** (Brasserie | Main level of hotel)

Please join us for a casual social gathering at the conclusion of day. Light food, beer and wine will be served.



## OCTOBER 17

**8:00am – 8:30am:**      **Breakfast** (City Center Ballroom)

**8:30am – 10:15am:**      **Communications session** (New Hampshire Room)

In this session advocates will learn skills to adapt their messages to different audiences within their state, hear about current research on how to talk about the safety net and work requirements. Advocates will also hear strategies to engage the media on benefit access work, including tips on building relationships with journalists. Hands-on exercises will be incorporated into the session, and conference attendees will have the opportunity throughout the day to meet one-on-one with Colleen Chapman to refine state-specific messages.

**Presenters:** *Colleen Chapman, Chapman Consulting*  
*Barbara Semedo, CLASP*

**10:15am – 10:30am:**      **Break**

**10:30 – 11:45am:**      **Concurrent Sessions**

**Streamlining determinations: Reducing paperwork and increasing timeliness** (Potomac Room)

Clients must complete multiple steps to successfully apply for and retain benefits. From interviews to verification documents to renewals, there are many places in the process where eligible clients may encounter barriers. But there are numerous strategies available - involving policy, operations, and technology - that can break down these barriers and make it easier for clients to obtain and retain the benefits they need to support their families, while also reducing burden on state and county agencies. This workshop will focus on promising practices and how to advocate for these strategies to streamline determinations.

**Moderator:** *Suzanne Wikle, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Jennifer Wagner, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
*Vicky Negus, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute*



## **Defending Against Administrative Actions to Limit Access to Benefits**

(New Hampshire Room)

This session will focus on growing legislative and administrative threats posed by groups such as the Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA), their tactics to engage and gain persuasion with state legislators and administrations, and advocacy strategies to push back and defeat such efforts. Policy proposals being pushed by FGA within state legislatures and administrations threaten access to work support programs, including SNAP and Medicaid. Their slick messaging materials promote misleading, inaccurate assumptions about work support programs and the people they serve, playing into existing stereotypes and undermining the credibility of these programs. Attendees will hear specifics about the threats and about advocacy efforts in Oklahoma and Wisconsin that used both grassroots and insider strategies to push back against attacks on SNAP and other work support programs. (Note: This session is primarily intended for advocates from red and purple states.)

**Moderator:** *Carrie Welton, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Ana Hicks, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
*Kathy Kilrain del Rio, Maine Equal Justice Partners*  
*Carly Putnam, Oklahoma Policy Institute*  
*Maureen Fitzgerald, Hunger Task Force (WI)*

## **SNAP ABAWD requirements and E&T** (Dupont Room)

As more states implement rules for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) after several years of state waivers and states make changes to their SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs, there are many opportunities for advocates to minimize harm and push for program improvement. This session will provide an overview of SNAP E&T and the ABAWD time limit, including key policy decisions that administrations make during implementation and the latest opportunities. It will be also be an opportunity for advocates facing Medicaid work requirements to learn more about lessons learned from SNAP work requirements and the impact of enrollment in SNAP on Medicaid work requirement exemptions.

**Moderator:** *Renato Rocha, CLASP*

**Speakers:** *Ed Bolen, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
*Samuel Chu, Mazon*

**11:45am – 12:00pm:**

**Break**

**12:00pm – 1:30pm:**

**Lunch and Speaker Panel, “A View from the Inside”** (City Center Ballroom)

Audience members will hear directly from panelists with a range of experience inside state administrations. The conversation will cover how advocates can be

most influential with state administrators, particularly in the months following an election. Members of the panel who were advocates prior to joining administrations will give a unique perspective about the role advocates can play in changing administrative policy to improve access to benefits.

**Moderators:** *Olivia Golden, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Nick Albares, Office of Governor John Bel Edwards*

*Michelle Saddler, Kittleman and Associates*

*Doug Lumpkin, Ohio Office of Human Services Innovation (formerly)*

**1:30pm – 1:45pm:**

**Break**

**1:45pm – 3:00pm:**

**Concurrent sessions**

**Advocating against proposals that take Medicaid away from people who don't meet work requirements** (New Hampshire Room) | *This is a repeat of Tuesday's session.*

The list of states seeking to impose new barriers to coverage through so-called "work requirements" is anticipated to grow in 2019. This session will help advocates develop and carry out strategies to:

- Prevent proposals from being adopted during state legislative sessions;
- Push back on proposed waivers;
- Make optimal use of state and federal comment periods, and;
- If necessary, take steps to explore litigation and monitor implementation.

This deep-dive discussion will draw on the experience of attendees to share how advocacy efforts have played out in their states. Whether your state has already submitted a waiver to CMS or you anticipate this issue coming up in your state in 2019 this session will help you think through advocacy strategies to combat dangerous proposals that limit access to Medicaid.

**Moderator:** *Suzanne Wikle, CLASP*

**Panelists:** *Judy Solomon, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

*Hannah Katch, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

**Streamlining determinations: Reducing paperwork and increasing timeliness** (Potomac Room) | *This is a repeat of the morning session.*

Clients must complete multiple steps to successfully apply for and retain benefits. From interviews to verification documents to renewals, there are many places in the process where eligible clients may encounter barriers. But there are numerous strategies available - involving policy, operations, and technology - that can break down these barriers and make it easier for clients to obtain and retain the benefits they need to support their families, while also reducing burden on state and county agencies. This workshop will focus on promising practices and how to advocate for these strategies to streamline determinations.

**Moderator:** *Elizabeth Lower-Basch, CLASP*

**Panelists:** Jennifer Wagner, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Pat Baker, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

**Data Session** (Dupont Room) | *This is a repeat of the morning session.*

Reports and data are powerful tools to identify what is going right and not so right in state and local agencies. Plus, data can give you something to talk about with state officials. This session will discuss what data is essential when assessing the health of a public benefits system, how to obtain data (including where to find publicly available information and crafting requests to agencies), what questions to ask, and how to use that information to inform advocacy efforts. Attendees will analyze and discuss data examples and hear from advocates about the role data plays in their work.

**Moderator:** Nia West-Bay, CLASP

**Panelists:** Dottie Rosenbaum, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Sovereign Hager, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

**3:00pm – 3:30pm**

**“What can ASAP do for you?”**

**Closing remarks and next steps** (New Hampshire Room)

