



Q&A from Webinar:

Wealth Inequity: Understanding the impact of Poverty on Families' Health May 19, 2021

1. If someone were interested in going into public policy, specifically health policy, what would be a good first step?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) I recommend schools of public health that have strong policy tracks. I am an alumna of the University of North Carolina and worked at the George Washington University, which share this characteristic. Many schools of public health do. They are more focused than departments of public policy, although many people have those masters level degrees.*
2. Do any of these assistance (programs) apply to undocumented children?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) This is complicated and I am not an expert. Most undocumented children do not qualify for the assistance. Many in mixed status families also face challenges. Mayra Alvarez at the Children's Partnership in California and Dolores Acevedo-Garcia at Brandeis have offered some important views on this topic. Here is a link to an FAQ from the National Immigration Law Center.*
https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/FAQs_Eligibility-for-Assistance-Based-on-Immigration-Status.pdf
And one from the Latino Policy Center
<https://www.latinopolicyforum.org/blog/the-american-rescue-plan-will-at-long-last-provide-overdue-relief-for-mixed-status-families>
3. And what about my pregnant clients, when does the baby need to be born to receive this credit?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) So far as I know this has not been clarified. I believe, however, that there will be a mechanism forthcoming.*

4. Is there a place where the progress of these acts is being measured to ensure the proposed outcomes? If so, is it available for the public to be informed?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) We definitely need measurement efforts. I am encouraging state departments of health and MCH programs to do some monitoring. In addition, those who work in research institutes and academic centers might design some important evaluative measurement efforts, perhaps in partnership with families and communities.*
5. These plans and expansions can be polarizing among the political parties. Do you have suggestions for working with the faith and business communities about the both the moral choice to support these and from business side the cost savings with these investments?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) Those who do the social science studies and surveys on opinions tell us that most Americans (70%+) favor these policies for children and families. I'd start from that. In addition, approaching as a moral choice might work with faith communities; however, less likely to be effective with the business community. The Ready Nation: Council for a Strong American resources might help you make the case for business leaders. <https://www.strongnation.org/readynation>*
6. I would love to know how to get the tax credit \$\$ to my clients with children that don't file taxes. How do I do this?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) Please use the IRS links shared. Start with this <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>*
7. Can you go over how housing and education and minority banking and business don't help with the poverty disparity?
 - a. *(Kay Johnson) They definitely help but are not large enough to close the large gap. Darity and others support such efforts but make it plain that the economics don't work to close the wealth gap between Blacks and Whites. Sorry, I tried to make that clear in presentation.*
8. All the additional child funding is wonderful. However, many minority families have support from family members that do not have children, and who do

not qualify for the child credits, but could benefit from some sort of additional government funding or extended benefits. Are there any additional assistance that maybe coming forward for individuals/families that no longer have minor children, but still need assistance?

- a. *(Kay Johnson) Many adults without children will benefit from changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit, which was made fully refundable as well. I just did not spend time on that. In addition, for many who can now get health coverage at a premium price they can pay, the changes in the Affordable Care Act marketplace/exchange plans will really help reduce medical debt. The Special Enrollment Period is through mid-August.*

IRS websites:

Get My Payment

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Economic Impact Payments

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

Advance Child Tax Credit Payments in 2021

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021>