



2010 California Symposium on Poverty: Opportunity In Action

The initial County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) Symposium on Poverty, held in October 2009, brought together practitioners, academics and policy makers to examine the causes, impacts and implications for poverty in California. In response to that convening of experts and ideas and to address the overwhelmingly positive feedback and momentum created by that conference, CWDA has scheduled its second California Symposium on Poverty, to be held **October 27 and 28, 2010** in Sacramento, California. The goal of this year's symposium is to address the action that is necessary to lift families and individuals from poverty.

The Symposium will examine successful models and approaches that help families move from poverty. Presentations and panels will provide a forum for discussion of international efforts, as well as those implemented in other states and at the level of communities and neighborhoods.

The featured keynote speaker is author and advocate Barbara Ehrenreich, whose book "Nickel and Dimed" changed the perception of the working poor in America in its vivid description of the challenges faced by individuals who work full-time in the minimum wage milieu.

The Symposium will consider the successful *Oportunidades* program in Mexico, and the other international efforts that have sprung from that effort. Experts from Mexico will present their findings and offer lessons learned. A panel of experts from national anti-poverty organizations and from other states will discuss their efforts to reduce poverty, including models that derive from grassroots advocacy, from legislative direction or from administrative order.

The premier Symposium on Poverty served both to educate its participants and to provide a foundation for change in public policy, reflecting the latest research and the experience of those in the field. The 2010 California Symposium on Poverty seeks to answer the questions that emerged from last year's successful beginnings: In what direction must California move, if it is to reduce poverty and expand its middle class?

We hope you will join us. Please visit our [registration page](#) for more information.

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