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PUBLICATIONS:

[Poverty and Opportunity: State Government Task Forces](#) charts the 20 states which have created a task force since 2003. Of the 20 states, 11 have established a poverty reduction target that sets a goal and a timeline for achieving it. The chart offers links to state-specific information such as authorizing legislation and poverty task force reports. September 2009

[Increasing Low-Income Access to Opportunity](#) is an article, first published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, which focuses principally on the New England region's efforts to give visibility to poverty and opportunity through task force initiatives, summits, and state poverty targets. September 2009

[Target Practice: Lessons for Poverty Reduction](#) highlights the experience with policy targets set for tackling homelessness and reducing gas emissions. Governments at all levels have utilized policy targets -- which set a numerical goal and a timeline -- as a tool that takes aim at a problem. In some arenas, technical assistance non-profits assist government in fashioning and sharing strategies to achieve the goal. Target Practice identifies potential lessons from these experiences that can be applied to poverty targets. January 2009

[Seizing the Moment: State Governments and the New Commitment to Reduce Poverty in America](#) describes a dramatic political turnaround in tackling poverty. In just the last few years, one of every five states has taken action to put poverty on the political agenda. This joint report from CLASP and Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity outlines those efforts and provides charts detailing action by policy area. April 2008

[Targeting Poverty: Aim at a Bull's Eye](#) explores how forty years after the war on poverty and a year after Katrina, commitments to tackle poverty are beginning to come back onto political and policy agendas. Among the reasons why poverty may be gaining attention is the increasing concern among many Americans that at some point they and their families may experience poverty. August 2009

AUDIO CONFERENCES:

[Poverty Task Forces: The Experience of 3 State Advocates](#) focuses on three states' (Connecticut, Minnesota and Illinois) lessons learned in establishing and working with a poverty task force. It explores the pros and cons of task forces and other issues, ranging from why bother with a task force to how does the current recession influence pursuit of a task force. November 2008

[What's a Poverty Commission to Do about a Recession?](#) offers concrete ideas for immediate actions states can take to address the high costs of food and fuel and the loss of jobs that are causing more to struggle to make ends meet and pushing more and more families towards poverty. September 2008

[First Hand-Facts: Visits, Tours, Testimony and More provides insights from](#) Minnesota where the Legislative Commission to End Poverty spent two years trying to understand the nature, causes, and consequences for the state and for the individuals who struggle to make ends meet in today's economy. The commission's next task is to make recommendations. What role do first-hand facts—getting out around the state—have? How can advocacy organizations work collaboratively with a commission to zero-in on the most pressing problems? How can policymakers best hear from those experiencing low incomes? And, how does a commission keep getting first-hand insights after it makes recommendations? July 2008

[Poverty and Opportunity: Developments around the Nation](#) focuses on the latest developments about solutions to poverty that are emerging around the country and includes an interview with Vermont's state Senator Doug Racine regarding its law to cut child poverty in half in a decade. August 2007

[Setting Child Poverty Targets: A Commissioner's View on Why Targets Help](#) offers an interview with Pat Wilson-Coker, the former commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Social Services, who thinks highly of the state's law that established a child poverty target. She worked under it and thinks it helped focus energy across agencies on fighting child poverty. Connecticut aims to reduce child poverty by 50 percent between 2004 and 2014. Wilson-Coker outlines the positive effects of targets on accountability, partnerships, and planning. February 2007

Resources are available online at:

Publications: http://www.clasp.org/issues/highlights?type=poverty_and_opportunity&HL=true

Audio Conferences: http://www.clasp.org/resources_and_publications/filter?type=presentations