

Influencing social policy: applied psychology serving the public interest

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Abstrak

This volume fills a void in the literature by examining the social policy contributions of a wide range of psychologists. These psychologists work from various vantage points (i.e., have different roles in different settings) and employ a variety of policy influence strategies and skills. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 79 psychologists who were asked to describe their policy influence efforts, experiences, and perspectives. The purpose of the book is to provide insight into the nature of the policy process and how it can be influenced and to portray the unique lived experiences of psychologists working in the policy arena. *Influencing Social Policy: Applied Psychology Serving the Public Interest* aims to encourage psychologists who are interested in making a difference to become more fully engaged in the policy world. Psychologists presence in the policy arena is sorely needed to apply psychological principles to benefit the public interest. Psychologists are in a unique position not only to conduct policy-relevant research, but also to improve the quality of life for large numbers of citizens via active policy influence efforts. Psychologists can contribute to social policy change from a number of roles and settings, including as researchers in academia, as administrators and staff in a variety of intermediary organizations, and as policy insiders working in the legislative and executive branches of government.