



Out of Reach: Place, Poverty, and the New American Welfare State

By Scott W. Allard

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Sweeping changes in welfare programs since 1996 have transformed the way America cares for its poor. Today, for every dollar spent on cash welfare payments, some twenty dollars are spent on service programs targeted at the working poor—job training, adult education, child care, emergency assistance, mental health care, and other social services. This important book examines our current system and the crucial role that geography plays in the system's ability to offer help.

Drawing on unique survey data from almost 1,500 faith-based and secular service organizations in three cities, Scott W. Allard examines which agencies are most accessible to poor populations and looks at the profound impact of unstable funding on assistance programs. Allard argues that the new system has become less equitable and reliable, and he concludes with practical policy recommendations that address some of the more pressing issues in improving the safety net.

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Out of Reach: Place, Poverty, and the New American Welfare State By Scott W. Allard Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“A timely book that will have major implications for welfare reform policy and, more broadly, American social policy.”—Steven Rathgeb Smith, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington

(Steven Rathgeb Smith)

“This is an important and original argument about the increased significance of the location of social services in the American welfare state.”—Margaret Weir, University of California, Berkeley
(Margaret Weir)

“Some imagine that our programs to help the poor are too generous. Scott Allard not only punctures this myth, but does so in a remarkably constructive way that should influence public policy for years to come. Because we don't pay enough attention to the geography of poverty, he argues, our programs may actually exacerbate existing inequalities. He makes a compelling case that we need to pay more attention to how local communities provide (or fail to provide) social services. And he offers highly practical ideas about the role of faith-based institutions that could take us beyond the dead-end ideological debate over how our religious institutions can help lift up the poor. *Out of Reach* makes an enormous contribution to a debate that needs to be shaken up.”—E. J. Dionne Jr., author of *Why Americans Hate Politics* and *Souled Out: Reclaiming Faith and Politics After the Religious Right*

(E. J. Dionne Jr.)

“[*Out of Reach*] belongs on the required reading list of all who wish to understand both the fundamental changes in the safety net during the past 2 decades and the important obstacles to making the safety net more stable and accessible.”—Bruce A. Weber, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

(Bruce A. Weber *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

“The theme of this book could not be more timely. . . . This innovative book will serve as a foundation for numerous studies to follow and will be a required text in many social welfare forums.”—Ram A. Cnaan, *Social Service Review*

(Ram A. Cnaan *Social Service Review*)

“The fact that we have ignored the spatial dimension of social services provision in assessing the successes and remaining challenges of our social safety net is now remedied by the contributions of this book.”—Laura

R. Peck, *American Journal of Sociology*

(Laura R. Peck *American Journal of Sociology*)

“. . . Scott Allard forces his readers to think more broadly and offers a compelling case for considering the growing importance of social services, provided by public and private entities, as the most critical element of the contemporary safety net.”—Andrea Hetling, *Perspectives on Politics*

(Andrea Hetling *Perspectives on Politics*)

“Using an impressive set of data and a rigorous method of study, Allard compellingly demonstrates that the contemporary American safety net, largely comprised of local public and nonprofit service organization is spatially mismatched from areas where need is the greatest.”—Kelly LeRoux, *Public Management Review*

(Kelly LeRoux *Public Management Review*)

About the Author

Scott W. Allard is associate professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Users Review

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Bradley Sparks:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Out of Reach: Place, Poverty, and the New American Welfare State* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Helen Samuel:

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