

# IRP focus

Vol. 36, No. 2

May 2020

ISSN: 0195-5705

## Human services programs and the opioid crisis, Part 2

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*In September 2019, the Institute for Research on Poverty hosted a forum to examine how the opioid epidemic has affected the delivery of human services, and what role those services can play in mitigating the negative effects of the crisis on individuals, families, and communities. Entitled *Human Services Programs and the Opioid Crisis*, the event was convened in partnership with the Office of Human Services Policy, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The forum had three objectives:*

- *To understand how the opioid crisis is hindering human services programs in meeting their objectives;*
- *To understand how human services programs can facilitate successful treatment and recovery for individuals with opioid use disorder; and*
- *To understand how human services programs can address the effects of the opioid crisis on their objectives.*

*The forum brought together over 200 stakeholders representing 29 states from a broad range of organizations including eight federal agencies as well as numerous state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and universities. This is the second of two issues of Focus to feature material from the forum. This issue contains six articles, three that explore how the opioid crisis is hindering human services programs in meeting their objectives, and three that address how human services programs can support successful treatment and recovery for individuals with opioid use disorder.*