

## Discussion questions for Assessing the Responsiveness of the U.S. Safety Net to the COVID-19 Economic Crisis:

What types of support should the US social safety net provide?

What should qualify people for different types of support and what limits, if any, should be imposed on length of time or generosity of benefits?

What strengths or weaknesses of the social safety net were revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

## General resources

IRP Webinar: “What’s Next in Virtual Human Services,” Annette Waters, Matthew Lyons, and Nadeem Siddiqi. June 2021. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/whats-next-in-virtual-human-services/>

IRP Fast Focus Policy Brief: “Making the U.S. Safety Net More Responsive to Economic Downturns,” Robert A. Moffitt and James P. Ziliak, edited by Mitchell McFarlane. April 2021. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/making-the-u-s-safety-net-more-responsive-to-economic-downturns/>

IRP Focus on Poverty article: “Administrative Burdens in the Time Of Covid-19,” Pamela Herd and Donald Moynihan. October 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/administrative-burdens-in-the-time-of-covid-19-focus/>

PLOS ONE Journal Article: “Access and enrollment in safety net programs in the wake of COVID-19: A national cross-sectional survey,” Brendan Saloner, Sarah E. Gollust, Colin Planalp and Lynn A. Blewett. October 2020. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0240080>

NBER Working Paper: “The Social Safety Net in the Wake of COVID-19,” Marianne Bitler, Hilary W. Hoynes and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach. September 2020. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w27796>

NBER Working Paper: “COVID-19 Changed Tastes for Safety-Net Programs,” Alex Rees-Jones, John D’Attoma, Amedeo Piolatto and Luca Salvadori. September 2020. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w27865>

## Additional Materials on “Modernizing the Unemployment Insurance System to Better Respond to Economic Downturns”

IRP report: “Analysis of the Unemployment Insurance Waiting Period in Wisconsin,” Jeffrey Smith, Yonah Drazen, Steven Cook, and Hilary Shager. November 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/analysis-of-the-unemployment-insurance-waiting-period-in-wisconsin/>

IRP Podcast: “Leslie Hodges on Unemployment Insurance and Material Hardships.” October 2019. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/leslie-hodges-on-unemployment-insurance-and-material-hardships/>

## **Additional Materials on “Reforming housing assistance to better respond to recipient needs”**

IRP Webinar: “Evictions and Housing Challenges in the COVID-19 Pandemic,” Lavar Edmonds, April Hartman, and Marah Curtis. September 2020.

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/evictions-and-housing-challenges-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

IRP Webinar: “The State of The Nation’s Housing,” Chris Herbert. August 2019.

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/the-state-of-the-nations-housing/>

IRP Podcast: “Kathleen Moore on the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Rental Market Discrimination.” April 2018.

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/kathleen-moore-on-the-housing-choice-voucher-program-and-rental-market-discrimination/>

IRP Focus on Poverty article: “Neighborhood and the Intergenerational Transmission Of Poverty,” Lincoln Quillian. Spring/Summer 2017. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/foc332e1.pdf>

## **Additional Materials on “Options to Improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)”**

IRP Focus on Poverty article: “Policy and Economic Factors That Affect Food Security,” Judith Bartfeld and Fei Men. October 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/policy-and-economic-factors-that-affect-food-security/>

IRP Podcast: “Does the Timing Of SNAP Benefits Affect Kids’ Performance On Tests?” Anna Gassman-Pines. March 2017. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/does-the-timing-of-snap-benefits-affect-kids-performance-on-tests/>