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Informed by CSD research, 401Kids Act introduced in U.S. Senate



On Wednesday, January 31, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania introduced federal legislation to create a national children's account policy with asset-building accounts for all children in the United States. [Read more.](#)

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Cultivating financial resilience to combat labor trafficking in Africa



In southern Africa and elsewhere, high vulnerability to poverty and false promises of employment lure many youth from their homes into the hands of traffickers who exploit them through forced labor. A new project from the Center for Social Development initiative on Financial Capability and Asset Building in Africa (FCAB Africa) focuses on reducing vulnerability to labor trafficking by enabling youth and young adults to achieve financial security and stability at home. [Read more.](#)

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Kazakhstan launches CDA policy informed by CSD research



Under the new policy, every child in the Central Asian nation is receiving an account with assets from natural-resource wealth. [Read more.](#)

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Recent Publications

[Reflections, Accomplishments, and Opportunities: The CSD Annual Letter](#)
Sherraden. *Washington University, Center for Social Development*

[Report on a Seminar on Financial Capability and Asset Building Organised for Social Work Practitioners](#)

Naami, Dako-Gyeke, Adubea Mills, & Ampomah. *Washington University, Center for Social Development*

[More publications](#)

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CSD in the Media

[Every child born in Wisconsin would get an education savings account under new legislation](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Giving new babies a savings account can help curb wealth gaps and make college feasible. One Democrat wants to make it federal law.](#)

Business Insider

[New bill in Congress calls for creating children's savings accounts from birth. Here's how it would work](#)

CNBC

[Democrats would boost savings with 401\(k\)s for babies](#)

InvestmentNews

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[Spring 2024 Seminar Series](#)

A Biweekly Brown Bag Seminar Series

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CSD Notables

Director [Michael Sherraden](#) was interviewed by Faculty Director [William Elliott III](#) (University of Michigan) and Melinda K. Lewis (University of Kansas) for an episode of the [Tangible Hope podcast](#) from the University of Michigan's Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, of which Elliott is the founding director and Lewis an associate director. The three discussed the future of asset-building policy and research, and what has changed since Sherraden's seminal 1991 book "Assets and the Poor."

Faculty Director [Jin Huang](#) is one of three scholars serving as chairs of the Inequality, Poverty, & Social Welfare Policy (IPSWP) cluster for the 2025 annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. Due to the efforts of Dr. Huang and Faculty Associate [Yunju Nam](#) (University at Buffalo, SUNY), the list of topics within the IPSWP cluster has been expanded to include financial capability and asset building. Submissions are due by April 15 (see below).

Faculty Director [Darrell Hudson](#), director of the Washington University Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity (CRE2), moderated a discussion with CRE2 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Heather McGhee. Organized and sponsored by CRE2 in part through funding from the Office of the Provost: Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program, the event was cosponsored by the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Clark-Fox Policy Institute, CSD, Here and Next, and the Program for Public Scholarship. If you missed the event, [stream it here](#).

[Ray Boshara](#), a national expert on wealth inequality and household financial security, has joined CSD as a senior policy advisor. As part of this appointment, Boshara serves as a legislative fellow with the Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey, where he has shared evidence to inform the federal “401Kids” proposal. [Learn more](#).

[Shu Fang](#), professor in the School of Sociology and Psychology at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, a leading expert on financial social work and social policy in mainland China, has joined CSD as the center’s newest faculty director. [Learn more](#).

Faculty Director [Molly Metzger](#) led “Who Benefits from Tax Breaks in St. Louis?” a webinar in the Open Classroom series by the Brown School at Washington University. Metzger discussed the dynamics of tax incentives in the City of St. Louis, who benefits from them, the details on recent changes, and how the tools could be used to foster more equitable development. If you missed the event, [stream it here](#).

Postdoctoral Fellow [Aytakin Huseynli](#) will attend meetings associated with three international convenings in early April. As a representative of the Brown School, Huseynli will attend the General Assembly of the International

Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW). The April 4 gathering is open only to representatives from member schools. On April 1 and 2, she will attend the invitation-only General Meeting of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). Huseynli will also take part in meetings of the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) in advance of the [2024 Joint Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development](#), which she will also attend.

Huseynli has accepted the 2024 Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Honorable Mention Award from the Society for Social Work and Research for “Effect of Resource Curse on Child Well-Being in Resource-Rich States, Specifically in Post-Soviet States.” Society President (and CSD Faculty Director) [Sean Joe](#) and Awards Committee Chair Gina Miranda Samuels presented the award at the organization’s annual meeting on January 13. [Learn more.](#)

At the 28th annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, CSD affiliates convened five special interest groups, organized four symposia, and delivered 23 presentations. Seven roundtables and workshops featured representatives from the CSD community. In total, 27 affiliates – senior scholars, research staff, a postdoctoral fellow and research associates – participated in the conference. [Learn more.](#)

Faculty Associate [Chunhui Ren](#) (Lingnan University) published a study on homeownership in the United States, finding that income predicts whether first-time renters become homeowners but that liquid wealth, not income, is a primary determinant of whether first-time homeowners avoid going back to renting. Read more in [Urban Affairs Review](#).

Faculty Associate [Sicong Summer Sun](#) (University of Kansas) published a study examining how race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors – especially parental wealth – are associated with substance use across an 18-year span from adolescence to young adulthood. Read more in the [Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities](#).

Research Assistant **Madeleine Thompson** attended Social Work Day on the Hill on March 13. Hosted by the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy, this year’s event was the first held in person at the U.S.

Capitol since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. CSD is a proud sponsor of Social Work Day on the Hill and Student Advocacy Day.

Call for abstracts: The Society for Social Work and Research invites abstract submissions for “Strengthening Social Impact Through Collaborative Research,” the 2025 annual conference to be held in Seattle, WA. April 15 is the deadline for submissions. [More.](#)

Call for abstracts: Abstracts are invited for “Protection and Security of Financial Services Market Participants,” a spring 2024 hybrid conference organized by the Department of Central Banking and Financial Intermediation at the University of Lodz, the Department of Money and Banking at the Poznań University of Economics, the Institute of Economic and Financial Expertise in Lodz, and the Student Clinic of Finance. [More.](#)

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Center for Social Development

Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

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Founded in 1925, the George Warren Brown School was named with a generous gift from Betty Bofinger Brown in memory of her late husband.