

Investing in the Disadvantaged: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Social Policies (American Governance and Public Policy series) (American Government and Public Policy)

David L. Weimer



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Investing in the Disadvantaged: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Social Policies (American Governance and Public Policy series) (American Government and Public Policy) David L. Weimer With budgets squeezed at every level of government, cost-benefit analysis (CBA) holds outstanding potential for assessing the efficiency of many programs. In this first book to address the application of CBA to social policy, experts examine ten of the most important policy domains: early childhood development, elementary and secondary schools, health care for the disadvantaged, mental illness, substance abuse and addiction, juvenile crime, prisoner reentry programs, housing assistance, work-incentive programs for the unemployed and employers, and welfare-to-work interventions. Each contributor discusses the applicability of CBA to actual programs, describing both proven and promising examples.

The editors provide an introduction to cost-benefit analysis, assess the programs described, and propose a research agenda for promoting its more widespread application in social policy. *Investing in the Disadvantaged* considers how to face America's most urgent social needs with shrinking resources, showing how CBA can be used to inform policy choices that produce social value.

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