

War on Poverty

Name

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Date

## War on Poverty

### Part I

Over the last few decades, social welfare programs have been in use and will no doubt be in use for many years to come. This understanding leads to the importance of finding ways to improve social welfare systems, particularly programs that are best served for the public and issues that some individuals cannot solve themselves. Regarding this, the provision of meals to the needy and basic healthcare should be part of what taxpayer funds are used for to help struggling individuals. This is due to basic items being needed to help people move on with their lives and also to help improve their lives. It is a fact that the high cost for such services is a barrier for Americans who live in poverty, which why provisions are necessary to help them. However, such provisions should not be guaranteed for long periods to the extent that two and three generations of families become entangled in the system. Instead, the intent should be that individuals must make satisfactory efforts to improve their own lives and get out of the welfare system. There are many opportunities available in the United States to help them do this, such as education and employment assistance.

Although American society is sufficiently affluent and the government has large amounts of funds, help to the needy should be provided in the form of goods that would benefit entire respective communities, and not just a selected group of individuals. These goods include those related to infrastructure, healthcare, and education. All of these would give opportunities to all to improve their lives (Rosalie et. al, 2011).

The future of the sustainability of American welfare programs is not good, considering that people have learned to flaunt, exploit, and abuse the system to benefit more than they should. This is one reason why some who have been using the system all their lives tend to become entangled and do not leave it, even with future generations. Increasing budget deficits and government debt complicates this issue and results in some programs being

reduced or eliminated over time due to declining availability of monetary resources (Andys, 2011).

## **Part II**

Food stamps and Medicaid are programs implemented by the initiatives of America's War on Poverty. The food stamps program provides for the purchase of foodstuffs by Americans with hardships. Although this program has achieved success, additional measures could result in greater gains. For example, food stamp cards could be programmed to monitor goods purchased and therefore help prevent abuse. In addition, frequent visits to the recipients' homes to ensure that purchased meals are being used in the homes is another way to monitor the efficacy of the program. Some type of monitoring system should be in place because some people sell their food benefits or the food they purchase with the food stamp card. Then they take the money they receive from selling their government benefits to buy other non-food items, such as alcohol or drugs (Diane, 2008). In addition, government benefit recipients should be required to search for work and follow-ups should be made on their progress in searching for work. This would help ensure that benefit recipients are taking adequate measures to improve their lives.

Medicaid is another large item in the budget for War on Poverty efforts that has a purpose of helping the elderly, disabled and poor people get access to healthcare services. The effectiveness of the Medicaid program could be improved by encouraging people to obtain healthcare insurance so that they would be guaranteed healthcare services. This should be suggested for people before retirement, while they are still in their productive years. In addition, insurance companies should focus on developing products that encourage people to get insurance. This can be achieved through economic classes and incentives. This would help reduce the burden on the Medicaid program and guarantee access to better quality health services to all Americans (McKenzie et al., 2008).

## References

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