## BRIEF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>xxv</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xxxvii</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the Author</td>
<td>xxxix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 1**  
Social Work and Social Policy: A Strengths Perspective  
1

**CHAPTER 2**  
The Historical Context: Basic Concepts and Early Influences  
29

**CHAPTER 3**  
The Historical Context: Development of Our Current Welfare System  
66

**CHAPTER 4**  
The Economic and Political Contexts  
120

**CHAPTER 5**  
Basic Tools for Researching Need and Analyzing Social Policy  
167

**CHAPTER 6**  
Social Policy Development: Research and Policy Practice  
200

**CHAPTER 7**  
Civil Rights  
254

**CHAPTER 8**  
Income- and Asset-Based Social Policies and Programs  
309

**CHAPTER 9**  
Policies and Programs for Children and Families  
362

**CHAPTER 10**  
Health and Mental Health Policies and Programs  
409

**CHAPTER 11**  
Policies and Programs for Older Adults  
472

**CHAPTER 12**  
The Future  
520

References  R–1
Credits  C–1
Glossary/Index  I–1
DETAILED CONTENTS

Preface xxv
Acknowledgments xxxvii
About the Author xxxix

CHAPTER 1 Social Work and Social Policy: A Strengths Perspective 1
Social Work and Social Policy 3

The Relationship between Social Policy and Social Work Practice 3

Social Work Values Integral to the Strengths Approach to Policy Practice 5

The Social Worker's Responsibility for Policy Practice 6
Connecting Social Policy to Personal Experience 8

Social Work and the Strengths Perspective 8

Policy Practice Infused with the Strengths Perspective 10
Recasting Human Needs and Social Problems 10
Expanding the Client's Role 12
Claims-Making 13

Principles of Strengths Perspective Policy Practice 14

Frameworks for Policy Development 15

QUICK GUIDE 1: COMPARISON OF THE PROBLEM-CENTRED AND STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACHES TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT 16

Identifying and Developing Your Policy Practice Abilities 17

Integrating a Strengths Perspective: Benefits and Cautions 19
Benefits of the Strengths Perspective 20
Cautions Regarding the Strengths Perspective 21

Connecting Social Work Values to Policy Practice 22

Conclusion 23
Meet the Policy Group 23
Main Points 25
Exercises 26
CHAPTER 2  The Historical Context: Basic Concepts and Early Influences  29

The Genesis of Social Welfare Policy  30

Religious Traditions  30
  Judaism  30
  Islam  30
  Buddhism  31
  Confucianism  31
  Native American Religions  31
  Christianity  32

Current Implications  32

Confl icting Views Regarding Social Welfare  33

A Framework for Understanding How Historical Approaches Influence Current Policy  34

Quick Guide 2: Historical Questions  34

English Poor Laws  36

Background of the Poor Law  37
  Population Growth and Migration  37
  Poverty  38
  The Poor Law of 1601  38
  Analyzing the Poor Law  39
  Influence of the Poor Laws on U.S. Social Policy  39

Social Welfare Policy in the United States  40

The Colonial Era: Adapting the English System, 1600–1775  41
  Social Welfare in the English Colonies  41
  Almshouses and Workhouses  42
  Slavery and Indentured Servitude  42

The American Revolution: Civil Rights in the New Nation, 1775–1800  43
  The Constitution and Civil Rights  43
  Expanding Federal, State, and Private Assistance  44

From Independence to Civil War: Racism, Expansion, and Immigration, 1800–1865  45
  Treatment of African Americans  45
  Native Americans  46
  Hispanics/Latinos in the Southwest  47
  Discrimination against Immigrants  47
  Growth of Cities and Public Institutions  48
  Mental Health Reform  48
The Civil War and Its Aftermath: Reconstruction, Segregation, and Homesteads, 1865–1900  49

Reconstruction  49
From Reconstruction to Jim Crow  51
The Homestead Act  52

The Origins of Modern Social Work  52
The Child-Saving Movement  52
The Charity Organization Society and Social Darwinism  53
The Settlement House Movement  55
Building the Social Work Profession  56
African American Social Workers  57

The Progressive Era and the Expansion of Social Welfare Policy, 1900–1920  57
Maternalistic Approaches and Mothers’ Pensions  60
Child Welfare  61
The Volstead Act, Prohibition and Racial/Ethnic Discrimination  62
The New Immigration  63

Conclusion  63
Main Points  63
Exercises  64

CHAPTER 3

The Historical Context: Development of Our Current Welfare System  66

Expanding the Welfare State in War and Depression: 1917–1945  67

The New Deal  68
The Townsend Movement  72
The Social Security Act  72

The Impact of World War II  75


The Struggle for African American Civil Rights  77
The Challenge to School Segregation  78
The Challenge to Jim Crow  78
Civil Rights Laws  80

The Struggle for Hispanic American Civil Rights  81
Mental Health and Mental Retardation Initiatives  82

The War on Poverty  82
New Frontier Anti-Poverty Programs  83
DETAILED CONTENTS

The Great Society and the War on Poverty  84
Medicare and Medicaid  85
The War on Poverty: Successes and Failures  86

Continuity and Change: The 1970s  87
Family Assistance Experiments  88
Social Service Reforms  89
  Social Welfare Initiatives  89
  Watergate and After  89
Women and Civil Rights  90
Native Americans and Civil Rights  91
  Termination and Relocation  91
  Militancy and the Struggle for Sovereignty  92
  Child Welfare  92
Affirmative Action  93
  Affirmative Action and Employment  94
  Affirmative Action and Education  94
Changes in Social Work  95

Retrenchment to New Foundations: 1981 to the Present  95
Implementing a Conservative Agenda  96
New Federalism, OBRA, and Devolution  98
  OBRA and Block Grants  98
  Pressures to Reduce Social Service Spending  99
  Equal Opportunity Initiatives Stalled  99
  From Reagan to Bush  99
“New Democrats” and Social Welfare Policy  100
  Family Leave and People with Disabilities  101
  Health Care: The Reform That Did Not Happen  101
  The Contract with America and the PRWORA  101
  Asset-Based Approaches to Poverty  103
Poverty and the American Family  103
The New Century  105
  Privatization and Faith-Based Initiatives  105
  Tax Cuts and Reduced Benefits  106
  Challenging Affirmative Action and Abortion Rights  106
The Promise of a New Foundation  108
CHAPTER 4  The Economic and Political Contexts  120

Effect on Social Policy  121

Regulatory Policy  122

The Impetus for Social Programs  123

Institutional and Residual Approaches to Social Welfare  125

Institutional Approaches  125

Residual Approaches  125

Influences on the Social Welfare System  126

Competing Explanations for the Development of the Welfare System  126

The Industrialization-Welfare Hypothesis  127

The Maintenance of Capitalism Hypothesis  127

Social Conscience Hypotheses  128

The Marshall and Titmuss Hypotheses  128

Economic and Social Conscience Hypotheses: A Critique  129

The Enabling State And The Capacity Building State  130

Economic and Political Schools of Thought  133

Keynesian Economics  133

Supply-Side Economics  134

Democratic Socialism  134

New Approaches to Deal with Slowing Economic Growth  135

The Political Continuum  135

 Conservatives and Liberals  135

Other Political Influences  137

The Three Branches of Government  138
DETAILED CONTENTS

The Impact of Funding Strategies 139
  Federal and State Budgets 139
    Mandatory versus Discretionary Spending 140
  Tax Strategies 141
    Federal Spending 142
    State Spending Policies 145
  The Role of the Private Sector 147
  Benefits and Drawbacks of Different Combinations of Funding Strategies 148

Social Welfare Expenditures in the United States 149
  The Nature of United States Social Welfare Spending 150
    Social Welfare and Tax Expenditures 151
  Adequacy of Current Expenditures for Social Programs 154
    U.S. Expenditure Compared to Those of Other Countries 156
  The Ramifications of Globalization 158

The Economy of the Agency 161
Conclusion 162
Main Points 163
Exercises 164

CHAPTER 5  Basic Tools for Researching Need and Analyzing Social Policy 167

Policy Analysis Fundamentals 168
  Social Conditions and Social Problems 168
    Alternative Views 169
    Defining Needs and Problems: The Social Constructionist Approach 170
      The Social Construction of Teenage Pregnancy 171
      The Social Construction of Family Violence 171
    Understanding Different Views of Reality 172

Using Strengths Perspective Principles to Consider Needs Determination 173
  Frameworks for Policy Development 173

QUICK GUIDE 3: PRINCIPLES OF STRENGTHS PERSPECTIVE POLICY 174

Analyzing Social Problems from an Expanded Viewpoint 175
  Defining and Documenting Problems or Needs 175
  Values, Ideologies, and Self-Interest 179
Causal Theories 180

Claims-Making 182
   The Various Bases of Claims-Making 182
   Assumptions Embedded in Claims-Making 183
   Using Strengths Perspective Principles to Consider the Claims-Making Process 185

A Framework for Policy Analysis 185

Policy Goals and Objectives 186
   Locating Goals and Objectives 187
   Manifest and Latent Goals 187
   Incorporating Clients' Perspectives 188

Benefits or Services Provided 189

Eligibility Rules 190

Service Delivery Systems 191

Financing 192

Cost-Effectiveness and Outcomes 193

Conclusion 194

Catching Up With The Policy Group 194

Main Points 196

Exercises 197

CHAPTER 6  
Social Policy Development: Research and Policy Practice 200

Steps in Policy Development 202

Quick Guide 4: Policy Analysis and Development Overview 203

Determining Need and Making Claims 205
   Groups Involved in Needs Determination and Claims-Making 206
   The Legislative Agenda 207
   Initial Steps in Policy Development: A Summary 208

Crafting Policy Goals 209
   Achieving Consensus 209
   Utilizing the Strengths Perspective 210

Values: Examining the Feasibility of Policy Alternatives 211

Enacting and Implementing Policy 213


Social Work Policy Practice and the Ecological Perspective 217
Policy Research and Practice: Basic Skills and Tasks 220

Identifying and Defining the Target Population 221

Examining Your Perspective 223

Getting on the Agenda 223

Getting on the Agenda: A Real-Life Scenario 224

Strategies for Utilizing the Strengths Approach 225

Working with Other Individuals and Groups 226

Identifying Policy Options that Include Client Perspectives 227

Negotiating Policy Goals 227

Helping to Get Policy Enacted 228

Considering Whether a New Law is Needed 228

Using the Policy Analysis Framework 229

Analyzing Costs 230

Evaluating Policy Based on Client Outcomes 231

A Place to Start 233

Seeking Support 234

Taking Action 236

Integrating Other People into Action Plans 237

Focusing Your Efforts 238

Interacting with Your Opposition 238

Supporting Client Groups 239

Interacting with Policy Makers 239

Facing Limits on Political Activism 240

Conclusion 241

Main Points 242

The Policy Group Takes Action 243

Quick Guide 5: Sample Action Plan 244

Exercises 250

CHAPTER 7  Civil Rights 254

Background and History 255

Civil Rights Policies in the United States 260

Disenfranchised Groups and Civil Rights 261

African Americans 261

Native Americans 264
Hispanics/Latinos 266
Asian Americans 267
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity 269
People with Disabilities 272
Older Adults 274
Women and Civil Rights 277
Affirmative Action 280

Major Policies and Programs 282

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 282
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 283
The Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 286
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 287
The Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act 2005 and 2013 289
The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 2009 289
The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act 2009 290

Evaluating Civil Rights Policies and Programs 291

Discrimination Based on Ethnicity and Gender 292
Current Threats to Civil Rights and Human Rights 294

Next Steps 296

Reconsidering “Neutral” Policies 298
The Role of Social Workers 299

Conclusion 302

Catching Up With The Policy Group 303
Main Points 305
Exercises 306

CHAPTER 8

Income- and Asset-Based Social Policies and Programs 309

Definitions of Poverty 310

The Poverty Line/Poverty Threshold 311

Poverty Guidelines 313

Alternative Poverty Measures 313

Income-Support Policies and Programs 314
Universal Programs 315
Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance: How Young People Benefit 315
Unemployment Insurance 318
Workers’ Compensation 320
Veterans’ Benefits 321
Selective Programs 322
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 323
History and Development of TANF 325
TANF Goals 326
Family Formation Goals 327
TANF Work Requirements and Sanctions 327
Non-Cash Programs That Assist Low-Income Families 329
SNAP 329
The WIC Nutrition Program 330
Public Housing 331
The Tenant-Based Housing Assistance Program 332
Supplemental Security Income 332
General Assistance 334
The Earned Income Tax Credit 335
Evaluation of Income-Support Policies and Programs 338
TANF and Poverty 339
Devolution and Recessions 340
Reforming TANF from a Strengths Perspective 343
OASDI from the Strengths Perspective 346
Women and OASDI 346
People of Color and OASDI 347
Is OASDI Regressive or Progressive? 348
How Solvent is OASDI? 348
Asset-Based Policies 350
Proposals for Fundamental Reform 353
Basic Income Grant 353
Asset-Based Reform 354
Poverty in the Global Context 355
QUICK GUIDE 7: INCOME- AND ASSET-BASED PROGRAMS 356
Conclusion 357
CHAPTER 9  Policies and Programs for Children and Families  362

History and Background of Programs Protecting Children and Families  364

Children and Families Today  366

Impact of Growing Poverty Rates on Child Welfare  368

The Child Welfare System  370

The Juvenile Justice System  371

Major Policies and Programs Affecting Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice  374

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act  374

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act  376

The Indian Child Welfare Act  377

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act  380

Family Preservation and Support Services  381

The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act  381

The Adoption and Safe Families Act  383

Independent Living Transition Services  386

The Child Support Enforcement Program  386

Legislation for Children with Special Educational Needs  388

QUICK GUIDE 8: CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE APPLICATION TOOL  389

Evaluating Policies and Programs for Children and Families  390

Child Protection Policy from the Strengths Perspective  392

Family Rights and Child Safety  393

Family Reunification  394

Teen Pregnancy  395

Privatization  398

Strategies for Supporting Families More Effectively  399

Juvenile Justice from the Strengths Perspective  400

The Role of Social Workers in the Child Welfare System  402

Conclusion  402

Catching Up With The Policy Group  404

Main Points  405

Exercises  407
CHAPTER 10  
**Health and Mental Health Policies and Programs**  
409  

Health Care in the United States 410  

*The High Cost of Health Care* 413  

*History and Background of Health Care Programs* 415  

Growing Federal Involvement in Health Care 416  
Medicare, Medicaid, and Civil Rights 416  
Background on Approaches to Health Care Finance and Cost Control 417  
Health Reform in the 1990s 420  

*2010 National Health Care Reform* 420  

The 2012 Supreme Court Decision 420  
Issues Left Unaddressed 421  

Major Health Care Policies and Programs 422  

*Medicaid* 422  

Mandatory and Optional Coverage 424  
Variations among States 425  
Medicaid and the PRWORA 426  
Medicaid and Managed Care 427  
Medicaid and Health Care Access 428  

*Medicare* 429  

Medicare Part A, Hospital Insurance (HI) 431  
Medicare Part B 432  
Medicare Part C, Medicare Advantage 432  
Medicare Part D 432  
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 434  

*The Children’s Health Insurance Program* 435  

QUICK GUIDE 9: HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS 438  

*The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* 438  

Affordable Care Act: Financing and Cost Control Issues 441  

Major Mental Health Policies and Programs 443  

*History and Background of Mental Health Programs* 445  

Community Mental Health and Deinstitutionalization 445  
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 448  
Mental Health Parity and Increased Attention to Preparing Mental Health Professionals 448  
Growing Concerns Related to Children and Mental Health 449
Mental Health Policies 450
The Mental Retardation and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act 450
The State Comprehensive Mental Health Services Plan Act 451

Evaluating Health and Mental Health Policies and Programs 451

Challenges to the Medicare System 453
Ageism in the Medicare Health Care Cost Debate 454

Substance Abuse, Pandemics, and the Health Care System 456
Social Work Education and Health Care Reform 458

Next Steps for Promoting More Effective Health and Mental Health Policies 458

Medicare Reform 459
Mental Health Care 460
Strategies to Promote Recovery, Diversity, and Health 461

Social Workers and Health Care Reform 462
A Health Model 464

Conclusion 465
Catching Up With The Policy Group 465
Main Points 467
Exercises 469

CHAPTER 11 Policies and Programs for Older Adults 472

History and Background 476

Policy and Program Responses 477
Private Retirement Programs 477
Public Retirement Programs 477
Policies to Provide Health Care and Support Social Engagement 478
Changes to Job-Specific Pension Programs 479
Pensions at Risk 479
SSI for Older Adults 480
The National Institute on Aging 480
Mental Health Services 481
Mandatory Retirement 481
Long-Term Care 482
Prescription Drug Policy 483
Shortage of Gerontologically Trained Professionals 483
The Influence of Demographics 484
- Poverty and Aging in the Community 488
- Voting Patterns of Older Adults 489

Major Policies and Programs 489
- The Older Americans Act 489
- The Employee Retirement Income Security Act 491
- NO CLASS: The Loss of the Long-Term Care Provisions of the Affordable Care Act 493
- Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act 493

Evaluating Policies and Programs for Older Adults 494
- Economic Security 496
- Health Care 500
  - End-of-life Planning 502
  - Social Engagement 504

Next Steps 506
- Developing a Strengths-Based Agenda 508
- Creating Needed Infrastructure 511

Conclusion 512
Catching Up With The Policy Group 513
Main Points 515
Exercises 517

CHAPTER 12
The Future 520

Future Forecasts 521
- Guidelines for Understanding Future Forecasts 521
  - Analyze the Purpose 521
QUICK GUIDE 10: UNDERSTANDING FUTURE FORECASTS 522
  - Assess Underlying Assumptions and the Credibility of Source Information 523
- Thinking about the Future Using A Values Based Lens: The Strengths Approach 526

Factors That Will Shape Future Social Policies 528
- Population Growth 528
- Increasing Diversity in the U.S. 530
- Medical and Technological Changes 531
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globalization and Environmental Degradation</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State of the Future Index</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Policy Directions</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity and the Work-Based Safety Net</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages, Jobs, and Retirement</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the Intergenerational Family</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Justice</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology and Privacy</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Influence of Pluralism on Future Social Policy</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privatization</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsidering Core Values</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Electoral Process</td>
<td>549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Strengths Perspective in a New Era</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Points</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>R–1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>C–1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary/Index</td>
<td>I–1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to the third edition of Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach. This edition has been redesigned to be more explicitly an empowerment tool for your students. It contains a host of new features that will allow your students to immediately begin applying what they learn about policy and programs to improve conditions for our clients. These changes incorporate the feedback that many faculty and students have graciously taken time to share with me. Thank you.

Reaction to the second edition was very positive. However, both faculty and students reported that the transition of content from classroom to policy practice is still a struggle for many students. This third edition has been redesigned to help bridge that transition. In Chapter 1, readers will meet four student social workers who become friends in their social policy class. Then, in subsequent chapters we follow them into their first social work position in child welfare, schools, health, mental health, and aging services. Students will observe the challenges they meet when beginning to apply policy practice skills and will be given practical strategies for combining policy practice with their clinical and other job responsibilities.

This edition is chock-full of resources, including social media links and web-based tools to help students engage in policy practice. Like the previous editions, this text provides students with a value-based approach to understanding social policy. The strengths approach to policy analysis and development is grounded in social work values of self-determination, social justice, and respect for diversity. The premise of this text is that a greater focus on the strengths and resources of people and their environments, rather than on their problems and pathologies, should be integrated into the social policy development process. Thus, unlike most other social policy books, a values and ethics focus permeates the entire text.

In addition to comprehensive coverage of major social policies and programs across fields of practice, the latest information on policy initiatives and reforms emanating from the Obama administration is presented and carefully analyzed for its potential impact. This edition provides new information on many policy initiatives including the Affordable Care Act, the Elder Justice Act, and securing rights for same-sex couples. I also discuss recent civil rights advances. This new information is
integrated into several chapters, and the effect of the changes on current policy and on social work practice is explained. Throughout the text, I call attention to how language frames policy debates, and urge students to engage in re-languaging to, for example, talk about insurance benefits rather than entitlements in discussing OASDI (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance). Additionally, international content has been thoroughly integrated into each chapter. Aging content is infused throughout this text and the entire New Directions in Social Work series.

As in the last edition, I make sure that students know where to find trustworthy web sources that are unlikely to disappear, and urge them to use these websites to get the most up-to-date information on policies and to expand their knowledge beyond the content in the text. This information is not simply listed at the end of the chapter, but integrated into the chapter discussion at the point where students would be curious enough to want to learn more and actually go to the website. Each time students follow one of the text prompts, they will become more familiar with the network of online advocacy organizations and resources they can use as a policy practitioner.

Beginning with Chapter 1, students are challenged to think for themselves and find areas of policy practice that ignite their passion. I have found that, once students begin to think about policy practice as a tool that can be used to bring about changes they care about, they become much more interested in mastering the content in this text. In addition to learning about the historical, political, and economic contexts of social policies, they will learn skills needed for both policy analysis and policy development. They will then use those skills to become knowledgeable about the major policies and programs that impact their clients.

As a veteran policy practitioner, I see policy practice tools everywhere. I want students to begin to do the same kind of environmental scanning, to recognize policy practice tools and be innovative in using them. For example, I make the connection between solution focused techniques students are learning to use with individual clients, and focusing on potential solutions generated by client groups early in the policy development process. Such illustrations will help students make these kinds of connections themselves.

The book’s chapters are peppered with actual examples of social work students who banded together and engaged in policy practice to improve services for their clients. The website materials accompanying this text also provide a wealth of new ideas. The enriched syllabi function as extensive instructors’ resources and include video links, interactive classroom activities, and many other resources that reflect the way that today’s students learn, and facilitate instructors’ efforts to make policy come alive and ignite students’ interest in policy practice. Many of these resources were created by Melinda Lewis, who teaches social policy at the BSW and MSW level. She is a gifted policy practitioner immersed in the use of social media, web-based tools, and other interactive resources in her advocacy work with the immigrant community. Be sure to check out 10 “Old” Ideas for Using Technology in Macro Practice in New Ways.
For all five books in the New Directions in Social Work series, each addressing a foundational course in the social work curriculum, the publisher has created a unique teaching strategy that revolves around the printed book, but offers much more than the traditional text experience. The series website www.routledgesw.com leads to custom websites coordinated with each text that offer a variety of features to support instructors as they integrate the many facets of an education in social work.

At www.routledgesw.com, you will find a wealth of resources to help you create a dynamic, experiential introduction to social work for your students. The website houses companion readings linked to key concepts in each chapter, along with questions to encourage further thought and discussion; six interactive fictional cases with accompanying exercises that bring to life the concepts covered in the book, readings, and classroom discussions; a bank of exam questions (both objective and open-ended) and PowerPoint presentations; and annotated links to a treasure trove of articles, videos, and websites. You may find most useful a set of sample syllabi showing how Social Policy for Effective Practice, third edition, can be used in a variety of course structures. A master matrix demonstrates how the text and website used together through the course satisfy the Council on Social Work Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

The organization and content of this book and companion website are such that students at the bachelor and masters levels can apply knowledge gained from studying the material to both generalist and specialized practice. The third edition can be used throughout a two-semester sequence as well as a one-semester course, and the integrated supplements and resources on the web make the text especially amenable to online distance-learning and hybrid courses. The rich variety of resources and links provided as part of the Social Policy for Effective Practice text and website makes it possible to expand or contract the content to fit the variety of time-frames and levels in which social policy courses are taught.

Readings (and accompanying questions) have been added to offer more breadth and depth to selected topics, giving students and instructors options about which topics to explore more thoroughly, and providing opportunities to explore the diversity and complexity associated with the social issues most important to social workers. These readings can also help students with more self-directed learning in areas about which they are particularly interested and may want to explore further beyond the scope of the material that is normally covered in the course. For example, in the area of juvenile justice, one of the readings examines policy reforms needed to break the school to prison pipeline.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK**

Please take a look at the table of contents for this book. The chapter titles reflect social policy topics that are basic for effective social work practice. In Chapters 1–6,
we will examine different frameworks and contexts for understanding social policy as well as tools for analyzing and influencing social policy. We will also consider the influence of history and economics on social policy. Students will be helped into policy practice roles by following the work of the policy group, consisting of four students introduced in Chapter 1, who are engaging in policy practice. Chapters 7–11 provide students with a chance to build their skills using basic tools to analyze policies affecting major client groups in a variety of fields of practice. Information on older adults is infused throughout this text and specifically covered in Chapter 11. Moreover, each chapter incorporates a strengths approach so that students can begin to consider clients’ strengths and resources as well as their needs when evaluating relevant policies. By learning how members of the policy group used their policy practice skills in their first jobs, students also get a chance to see how they may use their policy practice skills in their first social work jobs. In Chapter 12, the book concludes by looking to the future in an international context, and considering ideas about how social workers can effectively respond to projected changes in the 21st century.

The chapter descriptions below briefly introduce each of the chapters included in this book, with emphasis on the updated content.

Chapter 1

Social Work and Social Policy: A Strengths Perspective provides an overview of social policy and programs and introduces the basic concepts that are the foundation for the rest of the book. My goal in the first chapter is to help students understand why policy practice is critical to effective social work practice. I discuss the value base of the strengths perspective and explain how a strengths approach and solutions focused strategies change not only the policy product but also the policy analysis and development process. Students are challenged right away to find an issue they are passionate about and to begin to build policy practice skills. Integral to this chapter is the concept of dual assessments, whereby social workers are expected to also assess the specific policy issues that impact their clients and consider whether intervention requiring use of policy practice skills is necessary. By the end of the first chapter, I hope students will be excited about policy practice and interested in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to help influence social policies and programs.

In Chapter 1, four student social workers are introduced. We follow them through their first social policy class together. Then, in subsequent chapters we learn about how they tackle policy practice issues in their first social work positions in child welfare, schools, health, mental health, and aging services. Thinking about challenges these students meet when beginning to apply policy practice skills provides an opportunity for readers to anticipate how they can successfully meet similar challenges. They also get the chance to learn practical strategies for combining policy practice with their clinical and other job responsibilities.
Chapter 2

The Historical Context: Basic Concepts and Early Influences presents history as a policy practice tool, and provides an analytic framework to support that approach. This chapter examines the historical context for the development of social welfare policies and programs, discusses the genesis of social welfare in early societies, and traces the development of U.S. social policies through the early years of the 20th century. New to Chapter 2 is an expanded discussion of the origins of social work, discriminatory health and mental policies during this period, formation of the Democratic Republican Party, the importance of policy research done by pioneer social workers, and the pivotal role of women in social policy development during the 1800s and 1900s.

In Chapters 2 and 3, many readers suggested adding more material to make historical events and people come alive for students. In response, I have added several exhibits that provide pictures as well as intriguing details related to important milestones in social work to both chapters.

Chapter 3

The Historical Context: Development of Our Current Welfare System then begins with World War I and continues through the administration of Barack Hussein Obama. These chapters are premised on the idea that history is not merely a prologue to the present. Rather, the ways in which historical social policy approaches are understood and reinterpreted directly and immediately affect the social policy decisions made. Chapter 3 contains an expanded discussion of the civil rights movement and of income-support strategies enacted since World War II. The changes that brought us retrenchment and devolution during the Reagan era are examined and the effects of the Great Recession during the Bush and Obama administrations are discussed. I also chronicle the major events that have shaped social work since the second edition with particular attention to the impact of the 2012 presidential election and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) including information on the ACA Supreme Court decision. The “capacity building state” is discussed. Finally, expanded examination of major state initiatives has been added, specifically focusing on recent state immigration laws, state challenges of the ACA, state policies on same-sex marriage, and state abortion policies. In the context of devolution, social policy is increasingly contested in state legislatures and Governors’ mansions, and the new text gives students some of the resources they need to navigate these arenas in their own practice.

Chapter 4

The Economic and Political Contexts helps students understand how economic fluctuations and political change interact with shifting social values to shape and
reshape social policy. New to this chapter is a much greater emphasis on the international political and economic context that increasingly influences our social policy. Each topic has been revised and now includes the most current statistics. Lastly, a discussion on the impact of the increased focus on the growing federal debt crisis has been added.

Chapter 5

Basic Tools for Researching Need and Analyzing Social Policy illustrates for students how to use a policy analysis framework to analyze social policy and gives them a chance to do hands-on analysis of legislation passed under the Obama administration that addresses homelessness. Strength principles for policy analysis are explained and their application is discussed. I have also added more specific information on how to analyze social policy in response to faculty requests for greater detail to flesh out the basic framework provided. The examples provided in the “A Framework for Policy Analysis” section have been updated and carried throughout the entire section. Also, new tools to help students analyze social policy have been included. Finally, we catch up again with the students in the policy group that were introduced in Chapter 1. They are grappling with the task of completing a policy analysis related to child hunger.

Chapter 6

Social Policy Development: Research and Policy Practice examines the process of policy development in detail, and then focuses explicitly on the ways in which social workers can intervene in that process. Explanations of ways social workers engaged in policy practice can use strengths principles and solution focused approaches to policy development have been expanded. New exhibits with examples of social work students doing advocacy work (e.g. immigration and promoting diversity) have been added. The Case study and Sample Action Plan, which lays out how to develop and implement strategies to influence social policies, now focuses on the work of the students in the policy group to reduce childhood hunger. Finally, Quick Guides have been added to this and other chapters that summarize major points to consider when engaging in policy practice.

Chapter 7

Civil Rights provides a detailed look at the groups who have experienced discrimination and oppression in the U.S. In this edition, I include much more information on recent state immigration laws. I also discuss the repeal of the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, as well as President Obama’s denouncement of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and the passage of state laws recognizing same-sex marriage. Analysis of recent measures in state and federal legislatures to introduce policies limiting
women’s civil rights, such as state anti-abortion laws, anti-contraceptive bills, and legislation defunding Planned Parenthood, has been added to the “Women and Civil Rights” section. The “Reconsidering ‘Neutral’ Policies” section has been revised to include discussion of the impact of the voting law changes of 2012. Increased emphasis is put on understanding how to analyze a seemingly neutral policy for negative impact on traditionally oppressed groups. Beginning in Chapter 7 and continuing through the remainder of the text, I analyze major policies in separate boxes using a simple policy analysis framework introduced in earlier chapters. This is done so that students can easily grasp the basic policy elements of goals, service delivery, and financing, and then can more readily understand later amendments.

Chapter 8

Income- and Asset-Based Social Policies and Programs examines the major government policies and programs designed to reduce poverty. This chapter emphasizes means-tested and insurance-based policies and programs that provide cash to clients. However, because SNAP, employment policy, and housing subsidies also directly help ameliorate the effects of poverty, I examine these policies and programs as well. I also analyze official definitions of poverty, and contrast universal with selective programs. Updated statistics have been incorporated throughout Chapter 8 and I have added information about the importance of extending benefit time limits during times of financial crisis. A discussion of SNAP and its effect on poverty rates during times of economic crisis as well as the disappearance of the middle class have been incorporated into the chapter. Finally, in response to faculty feedback, asset-based policy is discussed in much greater detail.

Chapter 9

Policies and Programs for Children and Families focuses on policies and programs dealing with child protection, family preservation, permanency planning, adoption, foster care, and juvenile justice. Programs for children with special needs as well as child-support enforcement policies are also examined. In addition, all statistics and policies have been updated throughout the chapter. Discussion of the impact on children of recent immigration laws and the growing poverty crisis has been incorporated, as well as information on adoption by same-sex couples. More advocacy examples have been added throughout the chapter. This edition also contains an expanded discussion of how child welfare and family policy can be improved and includes content on family capacity building, as well as on international child welfare and family policy. In this chapter, the newly minted social workers we first met in Chapter 1 grapple with the demands of their first job, including forays into policy practice.
Chapter 10

Health and Mental Health Policies and Programs has been revised to include discussion of continuing threats from state and federal legislators working to dismantle the ACA. Information on how Medicaid and Medicare will change due to the ACA has also been included. The impact of states not choosing to participate in Medicaid expansion is analyzed, and the resulting likelihood of increasing disparities in health outcomes from state to state is examined. Negative consequences for health care for not just people with low incomes, but also for the rest of the state’s citizens, are considered. Discussion of the debate to make Medicare a voucher program has been added to the “Challenges to the Medicare System” section. Also, updated material on the mental health parity law has been incorporated in the “Substance Abuse, Pandemics, and the Health Care System.” Information focusing on prevention and on encouraging the development of healthy lifestyles to reduce health care costs and improve quality of life has also been included in the chapter. Students are provided with resources to stay up to the minute on policy and program changes resulting from implementation of health care reform legislation, and ways they can shape implementation are explained. Finally, we continue to follow members of the policy group as they move into initial jobs and become involved in policy practice.

Chapter 11

Policies and Programs for Older Adults provides an overview of key policy issues that influence older adults including the many changes resulting from the 2010 health care reform legislation. Changes discussed include The Elder Justice Act, repeal of the CLASS Act voluntary long-term care provisions, and improvements to Medicare. Implications for social work are detailed. I also discuss the merger of the Administration on Aging with the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to form the newly created Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the potential impact of this merger. Additionally, the discussion of the Older Americans Act reauthorization in the “Creating Needed Infrastructure” section has been updated. I also examine policy strategies to promote economic security, adequate health care, and social engagement, as well as ways to support intergenerational cooperation. Expanded discussion of wellness initiatives and of changing work patterns and participation among older adults has been incorporated into the chapter. Last of all, as in Chapter 10, we continue to follow the careers of the social work students introduced in Chapter 1.

Chapter 12

The Future focuses on strategies for dealing with future policy dilemmas. The policy basics covered in earlier chapters provide the foundation for thinking about how we
might begin to address future challenges. This chapter has been revised to help students more effectively synthesize what they have learned and chart their own strategies to apply policy practice content in a rapidly changing political, physical, social, and economic environment. Information on how students can be involved in shaping the future of social policy has been included to assist with this synthesis. The likely impact of global economic instability on social benefits and services is briefly examined. Discussion of the changing role of family and religion in our society is highlighted and the dual role of religion as therapeutic and also supporting social change is examined. Updated information on initiatives to improve child well-being as well as new developments related to global warming and potential impact on financial stability have also been incorporated into this chapter. The text closes with a challenge to students to help develop a vision of the future that will energize the journey, and to work to improve policies and, ultimately, future outcomes for our clients.

INTERACTIVE CASES

The website www.routledgesw.com/cases presents five unique, in-depth, interactive, fictional cases with dynamic characters and real-life situations that students can easily access from any computer, and that provide a “learning by doing” format unavailable with any other text. Your students will have an advantage unlike any other they will experience in their social work training. Each of the interactive cases uses text, graphics, and video to help students learn about engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation and termination at multiple levels of social work practice. The “My Notebook” feature allows students to take and save notes, type in written responses to tasks, and share their work with classmates and instructors by email. Through the interactive cases, you can integrate the readings and classroom discussions by acquainting the students with:

The Sanchez Family: Systems, Strengths, and Stressors The ten individuals in this extended Latino family have numerous strengths but are faced with a variety of challenges. Students will have the opportunity to experience the phases of the social work intervention, grapple with ethical dilemmas, and identify strategies for addressing issues of diversity. This case has been updated especially for this edition with more policy content and a video specifically about policy practice.

Riverton: A Community Conundrum Riverton is a small Midwest city in which the social worker lives and works. The social worker identifies an issue—homelessness—that presents her community with a challenge. Students and instructors can work together to develop strategies for engaging, assessing, and intervening with the citizens of the social worker’s neighborhood.
Carla Washburn: Loss, Aging, and Social Support Students will get to know Carla Washburn, an older African American woman who finds herself living alone after the loss of her grandson and in considerable pain from a recent accident. In this case, less complex than the Sanchez Family, students will apply their growing knowledge of gerontology and exercise the skills of culturally competent practice.

RAINN: Rape Incest and Abuse National Network This interactive case gives students a chance to assess a new type of delivery system for human services: the internet. Internet-based hotlines are emerging as a new form of service delivery for victims of sexual assault, as well as for other client groups.

Hudson City: An Urban Community Affected by Disaster Our clients are experiencing the brunt of natural disasters and this interactive case gives students a chance to learn about disaster relief and psychological first aid. Thinking through the policy issues related to dealing with disasters is becoming increasingly important for our students.

Brickville A real estate developer has big plans to redevelop Brickville, a major metropolitan area that has suffered from generations of disinvestment and decay. The redevelopment plans have stirred major controversy among community residents, neighborhood service providers, politicians, faith communities, and invested outsiders. This case is community with a family case embedded; students will be challenged to think about two levels of client systems and the ways in which they influence one another.

This book takes full advantage of the interactive element as a unique learning opportunity by including exercises that require students to go to the website and use the cases. To maximize the learning experience, you might want to start the course by asking your students to explore each case by activating each button. The more the students are familiar with the presentation of information and the locations of the individual case files, the case study tools, and the questions and tasks contained within each phase of the case, the better they will be able to integrate the text with the online practice component.

IN SUM

Social Policy for Effective Practice provides an integrated approach to the policy making process. A clear philosophical base and a common theoretical framework underlie the discussion of each component of the policy process. The focus is on understanding how social policy can contribute to effective social work practice on a day-to-day basis across the gamut of social work settings. My aim is to spark students’ desire to understand and influence social policy. In order to help reach
this outcome, I have interwoven four essential themes throughout this book: (1) the importance of thinking critically about social policy, (2) the benefits of using the strengths perspective, a value-based approach, in policy analysis and development, (3) the vital role social policy plays in all areas of practice, and (4) the absolute responsibility of every social worker to engage in policy practice.

This new edition integrates new web tools and resources, many of which have been developed since the second edition was published. This text charts a new course for policy practice in the 21st century.