



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commission on Children



# The Federal Stimulus Package: What's in It for Children and Families?

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 9 to 11:30 a.m.  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2-B  
Hartford, Connecticut

## Speaker Biographies

**Judith Solomon** joined the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in January 2005 as a senior fellow specializing in Medicaid and SCHIP, with a focus on state-level issues. Before that, she was a senior policy fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children and executive director of the Children's Health Council, where she directed the Council's work on policy analysis, outreach, education and training, and independent oversight of health-care services provided through Connecticut's Medicaid managed care program. She also has worked as a legal services attorney specializing in public benefits and has taught a course on Medicaid and SCHIP at the Yale University School of Medicine (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health). She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and Rutgers University School of Law in Newark.

**Anne W. Mitchell** is the President of Early Childhood Policy Research, an independent consulting firm specializing in evaluation research, policy analysis, and planning on child care and early education issues for government, foundations and national nonprofit organizations. She is the National Child Care Information Center's state technical assistance specialist in Region I (working with the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island). She is also a co-founder of the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, a learning community on finance reform and system-building for early care and education. Previously she was Associate Dean of the Research Division at Bank Street College of Education in New York City. She has conducted national studies of state and local prekindergarten policy and early care and education finance. She also has written widely on child care and early education policy and practice. She received her B.S. degree from Wellesley College and an M.S. degree from Bank Street College of Education.

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(Speaker biographies, continued)

**Elizabeth Lower-Basch** is a Senior Policy Analyst with the workforce team of the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) in Washington, D.C. Her areas of focus include welfare policy, job quality, and supports for low-income working families. From 1996 to 2006, Ms. Lower-Basch worked for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she was a lead welfare policy analyst, supporting legislative and regulatory processes. She also developed and managed many research projects on the implementation of welfare reform at the state and local levels, including studies of welfare “leavers” and of the implementation of sanction and full engagement policies. Ms. Lower-Basch received a master’s degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a bachelor of arts degree from Yale University.

**Jack Tweedie** is the Director of the Children and Families Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where he oversees NCSL’s assistance to state legislatures on welfare and poverty, child welfare, early education and child care, and youth. His current efforts focus on state TANF flexibility and state strategies to reduce child and family poverty. He has written several articles in NCSL’s *State Legislatures Magazine* on welfare reform, including recent articles on the 10-year anniversary of state TANF programs, the effects of the recent federal TANF changes, supports for parents moving from welfare to work, and state efforts to promote healthy marriages. Prior to joining NCSL, he taught political science and public policy at the University of Denver and the State University of New York at Binghamton. He holds B.A. degree from Washington State University and a Ph.D. and a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.