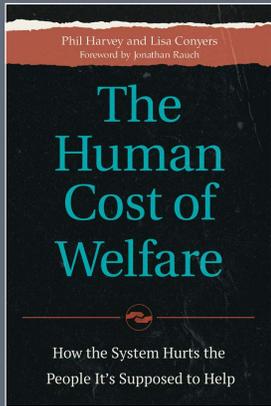


## THE BOOK IN BRIEF



*The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It's Supposed to Help*, draws on findings by analysts and scholars and on more than 100 interviews across the United States to tell the real stories of men and women who feel trapped by our current welfare system.

Authors Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers show why America's means-tested federal welfare programs now cost nearly \$700 billion each year—substantially more than the entire defense budget—while keeping people from working, with crippling consequences for them, their families, and our economy.

The sad truth is that tens of millions of people who want to work are not working because they are stuck in a broken system.

But the situation is far from hopeless. *The Human Cost of Welfare* offers a wide variety of suggestions—some complex and hard, some simple and easy—that will pave the way to positive change. For example:

- Removing financial penalties for working
- Requiring work for benefits
- Creating wage subsidies for low-income workers
- Privatizing welfare
- Helping employers create jobs

Offering a well-researched perspective on the relationship between work and happiness, *The Human Cost of Welfare* fills a gap by focusing on the experiences of men and women actually on welfare. First it shows how our present policies are keeping people down and keeping them dependent. Then it shows how to make the welfare system at once less costly and more beneficial.

## About the Authors of *The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It's Supposed to Help*

**Phil Harvey** is the chief sponsor of the DKT Liberty Project, an advocacy group that raises awareness about liberty and freedom in the United States. In addition, he is the chairman and founder of the mail-order firm Adam & Eve, and chairman of the board of DKT International, which provides family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention programs in 20 nations.



His previous books include *Let Every Child Be Wanted: How Social Marketing Is Revolutionizing Contraceptive Use Around the World*, which drew praise from former President Jimmy Carter; *Government Creep: What the Government is Doing That You Don't Know About*; and *The Government Vs. Erotica: The Siege of Adam & Eve*, which the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Roundtable nominated as the best book on intellectual freedom when it came out.

Harvey writes for *The Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications, and his profiles have appeared in *The Economist*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and *Mother Jones*.

He lives with his wife, Harriet Lesser, in Cabin John, MD, outside Washington, DC.



**Lisa Conyers** is director of policy studies for the DKT Liberty Project, where she works on topics including welfare, inequality, and civil liberties. Also a consultant and ghostwriter who focuses on economics, sociology, and public policy issues, she has contributed to *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *The Huffington Post*. She recently served on the Kemp Foundation's Advisory Council for the Forum on Expanding Opportunity, and she is a contributing author for *Self-Control vs. Government Control*, an Atlas Network anthology on self-governance.

She divides her time between the East and West Coasts, living in Seattle, Washington, in Washington, DC, and aboard her sailboat in southern California.

## Praise for *The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It's Supposed to Help*, by Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers

"*The Human Cost of Welfare* is essential reading for anyone who cares about what is really happening in America. **Useful, informative and sobering**, it describes a dysfunctional welfare system. Welfare programs are helping to bring about a slow-motion destruction of the American dream."

— James Bartholomew,  
author of *The Welfare of Nations*

"**Highly readable and thoroughly researched**, this book reveals the tragic secret of our welfare state and then provides practical suggestions for righting this wrong."

— Peter Goettler, President, Cato Institute

"**Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers illuminate the whole welfare picture** with reports from real people about what keeps them poor and dependent."

— Nadine Strossen, Professor, New York Law School;  
Former President, American Civil Liberties Union

"When you deal regularly with welfare problems, as I did as governor of New Mexico, you see the harm that supposedly helpful government programs can do. **The Human Cost of Welfare paints an alarming picture** of our welfare system's unintended consequences and provides valuable suggestions to make the system better."

— Gary Johnson, 2016 candidate for President

"*The Human Cost of Welfare* exposes the downside of America's welfare programs—they keep people underemployed and unemployed, preventing them from leading meaningful lives. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the disability systems for civilians and military veterans. I've studied this issue and lived it myself after losing a leg in Iraq, and I'm glad **Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers are shining a light on this huge hidden problem.**"

— Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Gade

"**I'd rather be going to work today, not dealing with welfare offices**, and I'd rather my daughter saw me going to work today too. This book explains why that's so hard to pull off."

— "Karen," Brooklyn, NY, welfare recipient

## A Book to Read and Ponder Now

“This book is valuable for many reasons. Although the authors have a point of view, they are careful with the evidence, offering an accurate and comprehensive account...”

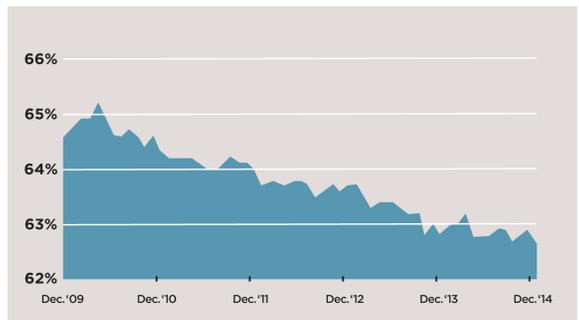
“Another virtue of *The Human Cost of Welfare* is that it lets us hear the voices of the people welfare serves. Often those voices are strikingly clear and candid. No expert could explain as well as this mother in Oregon how Medicaid’s benefits cliff pushes her into the gray economy: ‘I just do baby-sitting out of my house, for cash, for neighbors, and I rent out my garage to a guy who works on motorcycles on the side. That is all cash I don’t declare, so I have some income, but I don’t have to report it and lose my benefits.’

“One other strength of this book about welfare is that it is not just about welfare.... Many of the best ideas lie outside the four corners of TANF and SNAP and the rest of the federal alphabet soup....

“*The Human Cost of Welfare* thus tees up the debate about the next version of welfare. Call it Welfare 3.0. Version 1.0, the old AFDC regime, was about welfare. Version 2.0, the 1996 overhaul, was about workfare. Version 3.0 will be about work: rescuing and restoring it for those drifting dangerously away.”

— from the Foreword by Jonathan Rauch,  
Senior fellow at the Brookings Institution,  
contributing editor of *The Atlantic*  
and author of *Government’s End: Why  
Washington Stopped Working*

## Labor Force Participation Rate



While welfare programs continue to keep people from working, our labor force continues to drop, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of Americans.

## To Learn More About *The Human Cost Of Welfare*

### ✓ Arrange or attend presentations

Topics include:

- How Welfare Really Works
- What \$700 Billion for Welfare Really Buys
- What’s Wrong with What We Call Poverty
- Why Women Hold the Keys to Ending Poverty
- The Role of Work in Welfare
- What Welfare Really Costs

For more information, phil@humancostofwelfare.com or lisa@humancostofwelfare.com

### ✓ View the videos at [humancostofwelfare.com](http://humancostofwelfare.com)

In candid, one-on-one interviews, men and women on welfare tell what it’s like to be dependent on the government for survival, and how the system keeps them from supporting themselves.

### ✓ Watch for the TV special

Created by Free to Choose Media—the company headed by Bob Chitester, who produced the hugely successful Free to Choose series—a one-hour TV documentary on “Welfare and Happiness: The Human Cost of Welfare,” is based on the book.

### ✓ Get the book

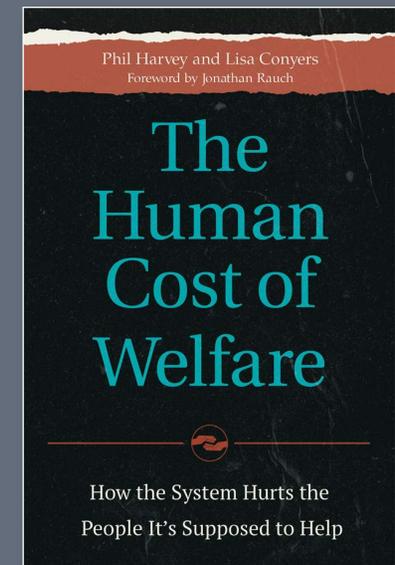
Order *The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It’s Supposed to Help*, at a **20% discount with the code Q11620** from <http://bit.ly/22Vny9J>, 800 368 6868, or customerservice@abc-clio.com.

“It’s weird that people become invisible once they’re in the welfare world because there are so many of us on all these programs,” “Betty” in Decatur, Georgia, says. “Instead of just giving us a little money and keeping us quiet, the rest of America should try reading this book.”

*The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It’s Supposed to Help*, by Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers. Praeger, 2016; 181 pages (Current Events and Issues/Society, Economics/Policy); Hardcover ISBN 978-1-4408-4534-5, \$48; also available as an e-book (ISBN 978-1-4408-4535-2).

# How Welfare Became a War on the Poor...

...and how to create a smarter system that will help people get off welfare and improve their lives through work



*The Human Cost of Welfare: How the System Hurts the People It’s Supposed to Help*, examines welfare’s current major problems, focusing on why the system has backfired and suggesting reforms that will help the millions of people on welfare while reducing astronomical costs.