Meeting of WPFP State Partners
Increasing Access to Income and Work Supports
Policy Academy Agenda
June 30, 2011
Lumina Foundation for Education
30 South Meridian Street, Suite 700
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3503
317.951.5300

8:45 – 4:30 Increasing Access to Income and Work Supports Academy – Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Senior Policy Analyst; Abigail Newcomer, Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy; Stacy Dean, Vice President of Food Assistance Policy, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

8:45 – 10:15 am Session One: Overview – Elizabeth Lower-Basch

- Introductions
- Definition of “Income and Work Supports”
- Why Access to Benefits Matters
- Why don’t people get what they’re eligible for?
- Role for working poor families project members
  - Spotlight on Maryland: Robin McKinney will talk about the strategies state advocates in Maryland have used to expand access to and streamline public benefits.

10:15-10:30 am Break

10:30-12:00 pm Session Two: Multi-benefit outreach, screening and online applications - Abigail Newcomer

- Continuum of Efforts
- Emerging approaches to outreach and screening
  - Funding for outreach and application assistance
  - Multi-benefit screening tools
  - Integrated service delivery (Center for Working Families)
  - Linking benefits access to community colleges
    - Spotlight on Arkansas
- Online Applications
  - Spotlight on Washington State
12:00 – 1:00 pm  
*Lunch*

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm  
**Session Three: State Policy and Systems Choices** - *Elizabeth Lower-Basch and Stacy Dean*

- Closing eligibility gaps
- Closing coverage gaps
  - Passive enrollment
  - Removing barriers to enrollment
  - Simplifying rules to streamline documentation
  - Longer recertification periods
  - Smarter recertification processes
- Systems change and the work support strategies initiative
- Opportunities and challenges under health care reform

2:45 – 3:00 pm  
*Break*

3:00 – 4:00 pm  
**Session Four: Experiences with varying approaches to improving access**, a panel of state advocates – *Moderator: Abigail Newcomer*

- **Massachusetts**: Ruthie Lieberman from the Crittenton Women’s Union will talk about the ways Massachusetts advocates have operated to make access improvements within the existing framework, through regulatory change and information dissemination.

- **Nebraska**: Kate Bolz from Nebraska Appleseed will talk about the ways Nebraska advocates have worked to improve Nebraska ACCESS, the state’s online benefits screening tool and their use of data to monitor the system.

- **North Carolina**: Alexandra Sirotta from the North Carolina Justice Center (N.C. Budget and Tax Center) will talk about plans to improve access to public benefits through the work supports strategies initiative and other state efforts, to improve screening and eligibility.

4:00-4:30 pm  
**Wrap up: Opportunities for Change** - *Elizabeth Lower-Basch and Abigail Newcomer*