

JOURNAL OF FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

CALL FOR PAPERS SPECIAL ISSUE

RURAL FAMILIES AND RESHAPING SOCIAL SERVICES

Guest Editors:

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The *Journal of Family Social Work* announces a Call for Papers for a Special Issue on “**Reshaping Human Services for Rural Families.**” Prior to the recent economic crisis in the U.S., many rural families were struggling to meet their basic needs. During the best of times, service providers in rural locales have had to use creative strategies to develop and deliver needed resources to families in those communities. Within the current economic and political environments, the constraints on funding for services have expanded as the needs for those services have grown. Programs have been combined, services have been reduced, and funding cuts have been severe in virtually every category of public funding. At the same time, private nonprofit agencies have seen their donations shrink and their client applications swell. Generally, much of the emphasis on where and how to cut services is based on the number of people served. As a result, rural programs and service locations have been lost.

The goal of this Special Edition of *JFSW* is to examine families in rural communities and identify creative strategies and program approaches that identify and meet rural families' needs. In particular, articles are solicited which address rural families across the life cycle, innovative approaches to service delivery with rural families, health care reform and rural America, mental health and emotional well-being, the role of rural churches as collaborators in service delivery, public policy and rural families, disparities among culturally diverse populations, and social and economic development in rural communities.

Each issue of the *Journal of Family Social Work* contains research articles, conceptual and practice articles, creative works, letters to the editor, and book reviews devoted to innovative family theory and practice subjects. In celebrating social workers' traditions of working with couples and families in their life context, the *Journal of Family Social Work* features articles which advance the capacity of practitioners to integrate research, theory building, and practice wisdom into their services to families. It is a journal of policy, clinical practice, and research directed to the needs of social workers working with couples and families.

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