



Center for Public Policy Priorities

Twenty Years: 1985 to 2005

CPPP Announces New Research Tool in Family Economic Security

We are writing to tell you about a new research tool. The Family Resource Simulator is an interactive, web-based tool that calculates family resources and expenses as earnings increase, taking public benefits into account. The user “creates” a hypothetical family by making choices about city and state, family characteristics, income sources, assets, and debt. The user also selects which public benefits the family receives when eligible and decides what happens when the family loses benefits. The result is a series of graphs that show the impact of public benefits on family resources and basic family expenses as earnings rise.

The simulator includes Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, and San Antonio. The simulator was developed by the National Center for Children in Poverty of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University with help from the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at The University of Texas at Austin and yours truly, the Center for Public Policy Priorities. To play with this new resource, go to <http://nccp.org/modeler/modeler.cgi>.

To see CPPP’s research on family economic security, go to <http://www.cppp.org/category.php?cid=8>. To directly access our Family Security Index and Family Security Portfolio for twenty-seven metropolitan areas in Texas, visit <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=120&cid=8>.