

## Work Supports and Benefits Access

Despite working hard, millions of American families struggle to make ends meet. With the rising cost of raising a family, parents need additional support to achieve economic security. Public supports are available to help them, including tax credits, food assistance programs and health care assistance. These supports can provide a meaningful boost to family stability, but only if families access them. McKinsey & Company released a report showing that an estimated \$65 billion in work supports goes unused each year. Community organizations, foundations, and local, state and the federal governments are testing and replicating new tools that aim to help families' access the public supports they are eligible to receive.

Following is a list of key research that summarizes available work supports and programs designed to help families access them, as well as efforts to improve policies in this area.

**Work-Family Conflict: Look to Employers and Communities for Solutions**

*Ron Haskins, Jane Waldfogel and Sara McLanahan, The Future of Children, Woodrow Wilson of Public and International Affairs School, Princeton University and The Brookings Institution, Fall 2011*

**The Future of Children Journal: Work and Family**

*The Future of Children, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University and The Brookings Institution, V. 21 No. 2, Fall 2011*

**TANF in Rural America: Informing Re-authorization**

*Jessica A. Bean, Leif Jensen and Marybeth J. Mattingly, Carsey Institute, September 2011*

**Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies**

*David Kassabian, Tracy Vericker, David Searle and Mary Murphy, Urban Institute, August 2011*