



SHUTTERSTOCK



# Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity

*A center of UNC School of Law*

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## MISSION

The Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at UNC School of Law brings together scholars, policymakers, community leaders, citizens and students to advance research, policy, and advocacy on issues relating to poverty and work in the state of North Carolina and the nation.

## OBJECTIVES

The center strives to:

- Address the pressing needs of those currently living at or below the poverty level
- Provide a non-partisan interdisciplinary forum to examine innovative and practical ideas to move more Americans out of poverty
- Raise public awareness of issues related to work and poverty
- Train a new generation to combat the causes and effects of poverty and to improve the circumstances of working people

**“History will judge us on the extent to which we have used our gifts to lighten and enrich the lives of our fellows.”**

—ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

## RECENT CONFERENCES AND PROJECTS

### Community Empowerment Fund

The center works with CEF, an innovative, non-profit student organization that promotes financial stability for individuals in Chapel Hill and Durham who are un- and underemployed.

### A North Carolina Summit: Progress and Economic Justice in a Time of Crisis

A full-day conference examining the effects of the Great Recession on the state and its low income residents.

### Mental Health Panel

A panel discussion led by advocates from Disability Rights North Carolina designed to focus on the legal fight to prevent the institutionalization of people with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

### Access to Justice in North Carolina

This conference brought together leaders from the state and national access to justice movement to explore ways to provide counsel for people of low and modest income who cannot afford representation in civil cases.

## Contact

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