

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Work Requirements and the Lost Lessons of 1996](#)

Article Link: https://www.wsj.com/articles/lost-lessons-of-the-1996-welfare-reform-robert-doar-aei-work-requirements-snap-food-stamps-medicare-5bdd598e?mod=opinion_major_pos7

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Tweet: .@AEI @RobertDoar notes that 2/3 of American's support work requirements and argues that "Work matters, and when paired with public assistance it's a powerful 'path out of poverty.'"

Summary: Mr. Doar is unequivocal: Work matters, and when paired with public assistance it's a powerful "path out of poverty." In 1996, Mr. Doar says, "the number of men, women and children on cash welfare was 1.1 million, in [New York] of less than eight million." Yet ... that figure plummeted to about 360,000, even as the city's population grew. New York "transformed a system that was focused on signing people up for benefits to a system that help them get into work." "The labor-force participation rate in New York City and around the country went from roughly 50% for never-married single mothers to roughly 65% or 70%." A May opinion poll showed roughly two-thirds of Americans, including half of Democrats, support work requirements on food stamps and Medicaid. In April, an advisory ballot referendum asked Wisconsin voters whether they support work requirements on welfare. It won with nearly 80% of the vote. A May opinion poll showed roughly two-thirds of Americans, including half of Democrats, support work requirements on food stamps and Medicaid.

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Primary Topic: Government Spending

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