Week 2 - Discussion

Social Security System Challenges

According to some, the Social Security system is currently plagued by a variety of challenges. Provide a brief description of one of these major challenges and suggest some potential solutions based on your reading and your own research. (Some of these challenges are discussed in your text, but you are not limited to only these examples.)

* Discuss the implications these challenges have on your ability to develop budgets for an organization.
* Evaluate the role fundraising plays in filling gaps in services.

Be sure to support your solutions and cite your references.

Respond to at least two of your classmates’ postings by Day 7 and ask probing questions to your peers in the responses about the major challenges and solutions proposed.

Introduction: Social Welfare and Financial Implications on Human Services Delivery

Building upon the foundation in legislative advocacy and process provided during Week One, the focus of Week Two will be on social insurance and public assistance programs.

* **Social insurance** is a wide net of services that includes such programs as Social Security, unemployment compensation, and Medicare.
  + These programs are funded through federal tax monies and are intended to provide monetary and/or medical insurance benefits to individuals meeting specific need criteria (unemployed, elderly, disabled).
  + The Social Security system has undergone many revisions over the years, but many feel it is still in need of a major overhaul to remain viable with the influx of Baby Boomers into eligibility.
* Similarly, **public assistance programs**, like Medicaid, provide monetary and/or medical insurance for those meeting specific income criteria. In an era of financial hardship, these programs are very much needed, but limited government funds can result in budget cuts that eliminate or reduce many programs.

You will begin to explore how social welfare policy impacts the financial health of an organization and the role policy plays in the development and monitoring of budgets and fundraising within an organization.

Resources

Required Text

Herzberg, J. T. (2015). *Foundations in human services practice: A generalist perspective on individual, agency, and community.* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.    
Chapter 4: Nonprofit Structure and Function  
Chapter 6: Fundraising in Human Services

Karger, H. J. & Stoesz , D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach* (8th ed). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.   
Chapter 10: Social Insurance Programs  
Chapter 11: Public Assistance Programs

Recommended References

Falk, G., (2017, November 29). [*The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: A Legislative History (Links to an external site.)*](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44668.pdf)*.* Congressional Research Service. Retrieved from https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44668.pdf