



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE POVERTY MAY PREVENT
DIMINISHED HEALTH
THAT CONTRIBUTES TO DISABILITY**

A congressional briefing was held by the Brookings Institution on “Fighting Poverty with Cash Incentives”. Presenters at the briefing were research workers associated with poverty and low wage workers, an administrator from New York City and poverty policy experts from the Brookings Institution.

Summary

New York City has a three year experiment with paying cash to poor families if they meet certain school, health care and employment outcomes. The program of conditional cash transfer (CCT) has shown promise in Mexico in other poor countries and middle income countries. Parameters of measure were education (attendance, performance on standardized tests, high school graduation), family preventive health care (maintaining health insurance, and preventive medical and dental check ups), parent’s work (sustained full time work, education and training while working). The results have been mixed with success in some areas. But performance among younger students and lower achieving high school students and some employment outcomes of parents have not shown improvement. The effects that have been observed are generally not large and the program has not improved educational outcomes.

Disability Prevention Issues

There are public health issues that were embodied in the design of the experiment. These public health issues were preventive health care the include dental check ups, maintenance of health insurance, and education programs with effective school nutrition. School based physical and health education may also contribute to the prevention of diminished health and disability associated with vulnerable population. Health associated with poverty of vulnerable populations should also include comprehensive programs of social determinants of health to prevent diminished health associated with poverty.

Activity

There is ongoing study of the implications of impoverished conditions on diminished health that can lead to disability

Principle

The poverty standard in the U.S. should be adequate to meet the health needs of people in the country.