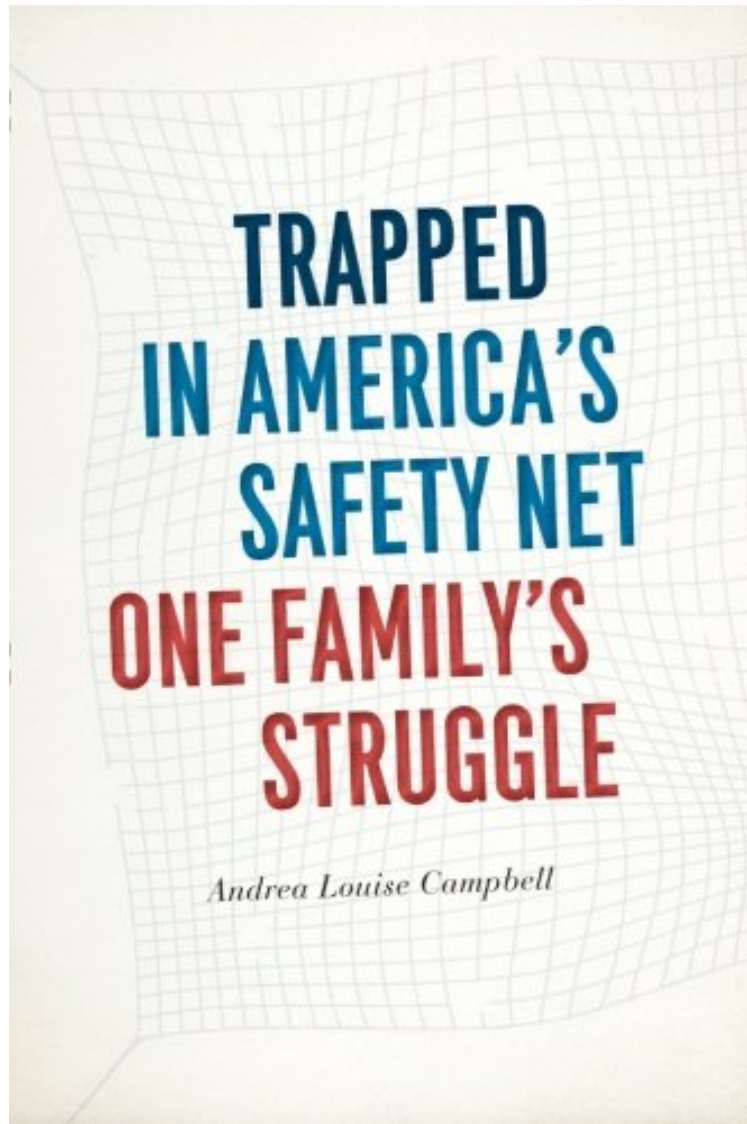


(Download) Trapped in America's Safety Net: One Family's Struggle (Chicago Studies in American Politics)

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Andrea Louise Campbell

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#199607 in Books Andrea Louise Campbell 2014-09-15 2014-09-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022614044X200 pagesTrapped in America s Safety Net One Family s Struggle Chicago Studies in American Politics | File size: 67.Mb

Andrea Louise Campbell : Trapped in America's Safety Net: One Family's Struggle (Chicago Studies in American Politics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trapped in America's Safety Net: One Family's Struggle (Chicago Studies in American Politics):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A moving book that should influence social welfare policyBy R.

StiltzchenI hope this important book will influence social welfare in the US. While moving as a personal document, it shows more generally the dramatic unfairness and unintentional inhumanity of the patchwork that makes up the US social welfare system. We see how a large segment of US society is forced to remain in poverty in order to get otherwise unavailable (yet still inadequate) benefits. Especially interesting is Campbell's history of how inequality has been part of US social welfare since its inception, due to compromises made to states' rights advocates. Although the book's topic is a solemn one, the writing is so trenchant that this book is a pleasure to read.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. She points out with great clarity the difficulties with the former - program complexity ...By JoeVery interesting book. Author understands, both through personal experience and through training, the difference between social welfare and social insurance programs. She points out with great clarity the difficulties with the former - program complexity and very strict eligibility - why the social welfare programs are difficult to administer and have many perverse incentives.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DorisGreat insight into the problems with welfare programs. Highly recommend student social workers read this!

When Andrea Louise Campbells sister-in-law, Marcella Wagner, was run off the freeway by a hit-and-run driver, she was seven-and-a-half months pregnant. She survivedand, miraculously, the baby was born healthy. But thats where the good news ends. Marcella was left paralyzed from the chest down. This accident was much more than just a physical and emotional tragedy. Like so many Americans50 million, or one-sixth of the countrys populationneither Marcella nor her husband, Dave, who works for a small business, had health insurance. On the day of the accident, she was on her way to class for the nursing program through which she hoped to secure one of the few remaining jobs in the area with the promise of employer-provided insurance. Instead, the accident plunged the young family into the tangled web of means-tested social assistance. As a social policy scholar, Campbell thought she knew a lot about means-tested assistance programs. What she quickly learned was that missing from most government manuals and scholarly analyses was an understanding of how these programs actually affect the lives of the people who depend on them. Using Marcella and Daves situation as a case in point, she reveals their many shortcomings in *Trapped in Americas Safety Net*. Because American safety net programs are designed for the poor, Marcella and Dave first had to spend down their assets and drop their income to near-poverty level before qualifying for help. Whats more, to remain eligible, they will have to stay under these strictures for the rest of their lives, meaning they are barred from doing many of the things middle-class families are encouraged to do: Save for retirement. Develop an emergency fund. Take advantage of tax-free college savings. And, while Marcella and Daves story is tragic, the financial precariousness they endured even before the accident is all too common in America, where the prevalence of low-income work and unequal access to education have generated vastand growingeconomic inequality. The implementation of Obamacare has cut the number of uninsured and underinsured and reduced some of the disparities in coverage, but it continues to leave too many people open to tremendous risk. Behind the statistics and beyond the ideological battles are human beings whose lives are stunted by policies that purport to help them. In showing how and why this happens, *Trapped in Americas Safety Net* offers a way to change it.

"*Trapped in the Safety Net* by Andrea Louise Campbell is an informed analysis of public policy centered around the searing personal voyage of her brothers family through Americas labyrinthine safety net. Along the way, Campbell explodes many persistent myths, uncovers many hidden truths, and makes a compelling case for a stronger, more integrated, and ultimately more effective strategy for helping the millions of Americans who find themselves plummeting out of the insecure middle class. If youre an educator, share this book with your students. If youre not, give it to your family and friends, especially those who say we dont need public efforts to help people who have fallen on hard times.