Children in Poverty

As of 2010, about one fifth of all children in the United States live in poverty. Compared to their peers, these children are at a substantial disadvantage in their social, physical and emotional development. They progress through school at a slower rate, have lower educational achievement, face greater physical and mental health challenges, and mature into adults who are less likely to go to college and achieve economic security. Our cluster will focus on these issues. A Social Work faculty hire will focus on the design, implementation or evaluation of social services for children in poverty, such as early childhood interventions, child care, family supports, and well-being programs for children and adolescents. A School of Education faculty hire will focus on the design, implementation or evaluation of educational innovations from pre-school through college, including innovations in the professional preparation of educators that seek to level the playing field and increase the educational attainment of children in poverty. A Ford School faculty hire will focus on the design, implementation or evaluation of public policies intended to ameliorate the negative effects of poverty on children, weaken the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and reduce poverty rates.