

## Assets and Family Economic Security

Rourke O'Brien
Research Fellow, Asset Building Program
New America Foundation
obrien@newamerica.net

## Why assets matter?

- Serve as both as "safety net" and "spring board"
- Assets Effects:
  - Increased economic mobility both within and across generations
  - "Future Orientation"
  - Reduced material hardship following income shocks
  - Reduced stress
  - Positive health effects

## The Assets Agenda--- www.newamerica.net

- Children's Savings Accounts—The ASPIRE Act
- Reform Asset Limits in Public Assistance Programs
- Reform Tax Code and Harness Tax Filing Process
  - The Saver's Bonus
  - Universal Retirement Accounts
- Increase access to low-cost and appropriate financial services while promoting defaults and "basic" products
  - Explore government provision of small dollar credit



## Assets and Family Economic Security

Rourke O'Brien
Research Fellow, Asset Building Program
New America Foundation
obrien@newamerica.net