

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **What Should the Next President Do About Poverty and Opportunity?**

**Major Bipartisan Policy Forum to Look at How the  
Next Administration Can Tackle Poverty**

*Forum will feature release of new study on media coverage of poverty in politics.*

**When: Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Where: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium,  
1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.**

*(Editor's Note: Video highlights of the forum will be streamed on the Spotlight on Poverty website at [www.spotlightonpoverty.org](http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org) after the event.)*

**Washington, D.C.** – How can the next president reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity? That question will be the subject of a forum on March 5, 2008 at The Brookings Institution sponsored by the Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, the Center on Children and Families at Brookings, and the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University. The event will run from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The forum is part of ongoing efforts by the sponsoring organizations to encourage candidates on both sides of the political spectrum to address the problem of poverty in America. The country has made only modest progress against poverty in the last three decades, while income inequality has grown. How can the next President effectively confront this problem while faced with a sluggish economy, sharp political divisions on Capitol Hill and competing policy priorities?

A new study on media coverage and poverty during recent presidential campaigns will also be released jointly by **John Bridgeland**, president and CEO of Civic Enterprises and former director of the White House Domestic Policy Council of the second Bush Administration, and **Thomas Freedman**, founder and president of Freedman Consulting and former senior advisor to President Clinton.

The forum will feature two panels, as well as opening remarks from **Andrea Silbert**, president of The Eos Foundation, and **David Grusky**, professor of social work at

Stanford University and editor of *Pathways*, a new magazine from the Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality.

PANEL ONE: *What the Next President Should Do About Poverty and Opportunity*

- **Ron Haskins (Moderator)**, senior fellow and co-director of the Center on Children and Families
- **Rebecca Blank**, visiting fellow, The Brookings Institution
- **Stuart Butler**, vice president, Domestic and Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation
- **Ronald Mincy**, professor of social policy and social work practice, Columbia University
- **Peter Gosselin**, staff writer, *The Los Angeles Times*
- **Reihan Salam**, assistant editor, *The Atlantic*

PANEL TWO: *Washington Insiders on What the Next President Can Do*

- **Michael Laracy (Moderator)**, senior associate for income security; coordinator for public policy, the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- **William A. Galston**, senior fellow, The Brookings Institution
- **Vin Weber**, CEO, Clark & Weinstock

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*Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity* is an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Eos Foundation and several other major national foundations to focus public attention on the pressing issues of poverty and opportunity. At this pivotal time in our nation's history, *Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity* is seeking to engage presidential, congressional and local candidates in substantive discussions about poverty in our country and elicit their ideas and perspectives about what must be done.

[www.spotlightonpoverty.com](http://www.spotlightonpoverty.com)

*The Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality* is committed to research, training and policy analysis of poverty and inequality. The center has five objectives: to monitor trends in poverty and inequality, to develop science-based policy on poverty and inequality, to disseminate data and research on poverty and inequality, and to train the next generation of scholars, policy analysts and politicians.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/index.html>

*The Center on Children and Families at The Brookings Institute* studies policies that affect the well-being of America's children and their parents, especially children in less advantaged families. The Center addresses the issues of poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity in the United States and seeks to find more effective means of addressing these problems. <http://www.brookings.edu/ccf.aspx>.