



# **So You Think I Drive a Cadillac?: Welfare Recipients' Perspectives on the System and Its Reform**

*Karen Seccombe*

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**This down-to-earth look at the welfare system provides readers with stories from welfare recipients themselves and from those who recently left welfare for work: how they got onto welfare, what the reality of welfare (and welfare reform) is for them, issues in raising their families, their plans, hopes, and dreams are for the future, and some of the struggles they face as they try to leave the welfare system.**

Welfare recipients who were interviewed by the author in Florida and Oregon share their perspectives on work requirements, family caps, time limits, and other features of the new welfare reform (TANF) program. They discuss the importance of a livable wage and health insurance in providing the needed security to leave welfare for good. These qualitative interviews are theoretically grounded, and supplemented with up-to-date statewide and national data on welfare reform and its consequences.

The author says, “Underneath the political rhetoric and welfare statistics are real live human beings who are trying to make sense out of their lives.” Their voices provide a crucial counterpoint to the politicians and policy “experts” who have shaped the policy reform initiative. They show us that the so-called welfare problem is related to the insecurity of low-tier work in the United States.

## **So You Think I Drive a Cadillac?: Welfare Recipients' Perspectives on the System and Its Reform Details**

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# **From Reader Review So You Think I Drive a Cadillac?: Welfare Recipients' Perspectives on the System and Its Reform for online ebook**

## **Megan says**

A great book for anyone who is either entering into a field which deals with the social welfare system, or for those who lack an understanding of what the system is **really** like. This book is a true eye opener, setting the record straight regarding the stereotypes which are assigned to those engaging in the welfare system.

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## **John says**

This book really puts welfare recipients' situations into perspective. It personalizes their situations and gives insight into the kind of people that receive welfare. It's a good book for people that just can't understand "what kind of people" are on welfare.

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## **Juan says**

This book is totally worth reading as a budding social worker in the making. About the only downside to reading this, and my experience with the book, is that I am reading the first edition that came out in 1998. That being said, all the numbers and statistics are grossly inaccurate and difficult to picture unless someone like me is magically able to recall what life and the economy was like circa 20 years ago.

It's interesting to read the comments and considerations of persons that are actually on welfare. It's interesting to hear how they maneuver the system to tailor to their needs even though the practice themselves still leaves them grossly under water in terms of financial "stability".

I walked away thinking about how beneficial it would be for inflation to apply towards welfare benefits. I work in a nursing home and for people on disability, the amount of money each resident receives as part of an allowance, remains the same dollar amount they have been receiving since the 70's and 80's. In those days, \$30 would last a while. In our modern times, \$30 is barely able to pay for a phone bill. It is a shame to see that politicians on the right do little, if anything, to effect the amount of welfare income any given person may receive.

Several decent arguments are made in support of the concept to raise the minimum wage and how it can have a true effect in stimulating the economy, this being another concept that conservative politicians always argue against.

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## **Amyrstoddard says**

This blew my mind!

