

Week 4 Assignment: Policy Selection and Background

Assignment Description

Government policy impacts social justice problems. Some policies may create social justice problems just as they attempt to correct them. To successfully address social justice problems, social workers must have the knowledge and skills to locate, access, analyze, and interpret public policy.

Based on your analysis of the social justice problem in the Week 2 assignment, select a current enacted policy that is presently a law to analyze using relevant local, state, or federal policy resources. Your analysis must also address the problem that affects your chosen diverse cultural group (for example, based on race, religion, disabilities, gender orientation, socioeconomic status, or access to services). This will be the policy you analyze for not only this assignment, but the Weeks 6 and 9 assignments as well. Be sure to incorporate constructs that have been covered in this course into your analysis. You will compile all of the assignments you complete throughout the course in Week 9, so as you receive feedback for each assignment, revise your work as necessary.

Use Federal Policy: The Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 is one of the most significant federal policies that criminalizes substance use. It classifies drugs into schedules and makes possession, use, and distribution criminal offenses. Research shows that this punitive approach has disproportionately harmed Black and Hispanic communities and has not reduced drug use or overdose rates).

Assignment Instructions

To complete this assignment, select a local, state, or federal policy that targets the form of oppression and discrimination you described in Week 2 (for example, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), Veterans Millennium Healthcare Act, Affordable Care Act (ACA), Adoption and Safe Families Act, Medicare, Medicaid, Temporary Aid to Needy Families Act, Social Security Act, or a relevant state or local policy, such as state or local affordable housing policies or health and safety policies related to COVID-19).

Then, complete the following:

- Describe the purpose of a currently enacted policy that addresses the social justice problem for a chosen population, using scholarly literature for support.
 - Remember, this policy must be enacted—in other words, it must be passed legislation.

- Describe the programs and services provided through the policy, using scholarly literature for support.
 - What are examples of the programs and services that are being offered as a result of your chosen policy?
 - Who is the target population for these programs and services?
- Describe how the policy connects to the chosen social justice problem, using scholarly literature for support.
 - Connect the policy to the social justice problem you selected by giving a brief description of the problem. Is it a new problem, something that has recently arisen, or an old problem that has never been resolved?
- Describe the historical issues and context that led to the creation of the social problem and policy development.
 - Include information about the voting outcomes for the policy and the legislative leaders who influenced the policy historically and in the present.
 - Include the impact these historical features have had on the policy's implementation.

Guidelines

- Use scholarly, peer-reviewed literature to support your claims.
- Review the **Policy Selection and Background** rubric for information on how your work will be graded.
- Remember that your instructor will be providing feedback on your assignments. Use that feedback to improve the content of your final assignment submission in Week 9, **Policy Analysis and Recommendations**.

Additional Requirements

The assignment you submit is expected to meet the following requirements:

- **Written communication:** Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to current APA style and formatting standards.
- **Cited resources:** A minimum of five scholarly sources. Most literature cited should be current, with publication dates within the past five years.
- **Length of paper:** 4–6 typed, double-spaced pages.
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.