



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP**  
for Child and Family Mental Health  
*CULTURAL COMPETENCE ACTION TEAM (CCAT)*



- **“The concept of the culture of poverty belies a more significant phenomenon, the culture of classism which is based on a deficit model that tends to blame the victims instead of looking at the environmental and contextual variables affecting them.”**

## **The Myth of the ‘Culture of Poverty’: Addressing and Examining Its Harmful Effects in Schools and Human Services: Part 1**

Oscar Lewis first used the term, “Culture of Poverty” in *The Children of Sanchez* (1961). Studying a small group of Mexican communities, he came up with 50 (negative) attributes he felt they shared and went on to suggest that the world’s poor shared a universal culture of poverty. Since then, voluminous research has confirmed that Lewis was wrong. Yet, lingering stereotypes are still used to justify the original concept. By embracing the concept that poverty has its own ‘culture’ and that people who are poor are forever trapped there because of their inherent self-promulgating values, beliefs, and behavior, our society oversimplifies and blames instead of seeking solutions to more complex issues.

Our goal in this webinar is to begin the discussion and not oversimplify, but also to propose strength-based solutions through community examples of how those living in poverty can and have excelled and exceeded expectations despite the prevailing attitudes and discrimination they faced.

### **Presenters:**

**David Osher, Karen Francis, Darren Woodruff, Gwen Willis-Darpoh, Jessica Milton**, American Institutes for Research

**Edward Fergus**, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education at New York University

**Representatives from Turnaround for Children Inc., New York, NY and the American Federation of Teachers**

**Facilitator:** Ken Martinez, American Institutes for Research

## **EVENT DETAILS**

**Part 1: Tuesday, January 29, 2013**

3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

**Part 2: Tuesday, February 12, 2013**

3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

For more information please contact Laura Goodwyn at 202-403-5434 or [lgoodwyn@air.org](mailto:lgoodwyn@air.org)



**Registration is will be available in the coming weeks.**

### **ABOUT THE CCAT**

The Cultural Competence Action Team (CCAT) supports system of care communities by helping to enhance their efforts to integrate and implement cultural and linguistic competence through its Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Practice (CLC-COP).