

## Chapter 18: Social Welfare Policymaking

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*After studying this chapter, students should be able to:*

1. Explain what is meant by social welfare policy.
2. Summarize how liberals and conservatives disagree about the conduct and impact of public assistance programs.
3. Identify the three major types of taxes and show how each can affect citizens' incomes.
4. Summarize the effects that social welfare programs have had on the day-today living conditions of groups of Americans, such as the poor, the young, and the elderly.
5. Differentiate between *entitlement* programs and *means-tested* programs.
6. Indicate the role that entitlements play in the U.S. budgetary system.
7. Identify the major American social welfare programs and the groups that benefit from them.
8. Contrast social welfare policy in the United States with that of other major Western democracies.
9. Trace the evolution of America's social welfare programs, with emphasis on the role of the Great Depression.
10. Examine *intergenerational equality issues* that stem from the disparity in public dollars spent on the elderly as contrasted with public funds spent on children.
11. Compare and contrast the views of recent presidents of both political parties toward social welfare expenditures.
12. Explain why policymaking in the United States is very *incremental* in nature.
13. Examine the relationship between social welfare policy and the scope of government.