

Melissa Abelev

Melissa Abelev is the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Policy Support in the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Office of Policy Support. She has a PhD in Sociology from Tulane University and a MA in Policy Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Her work focuses on the intersection of poverty and policy, with a special interest in government assistance programs' role in anti-poverty efforts. Prior to joining FNS, Dr. Abelev worked as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Council of the District of Columbia, where she advised the Council's 13 members on poverty and human services issues in the District of Columbia. She also was the National Project Manager for the Career Transcript System Welfare-to-Work initiative at Johns Hopkins University – a large-scale demonstration implemented in 10 cities around the country that helped over 2,000 long-term cash assistance recipients find and retain employment.