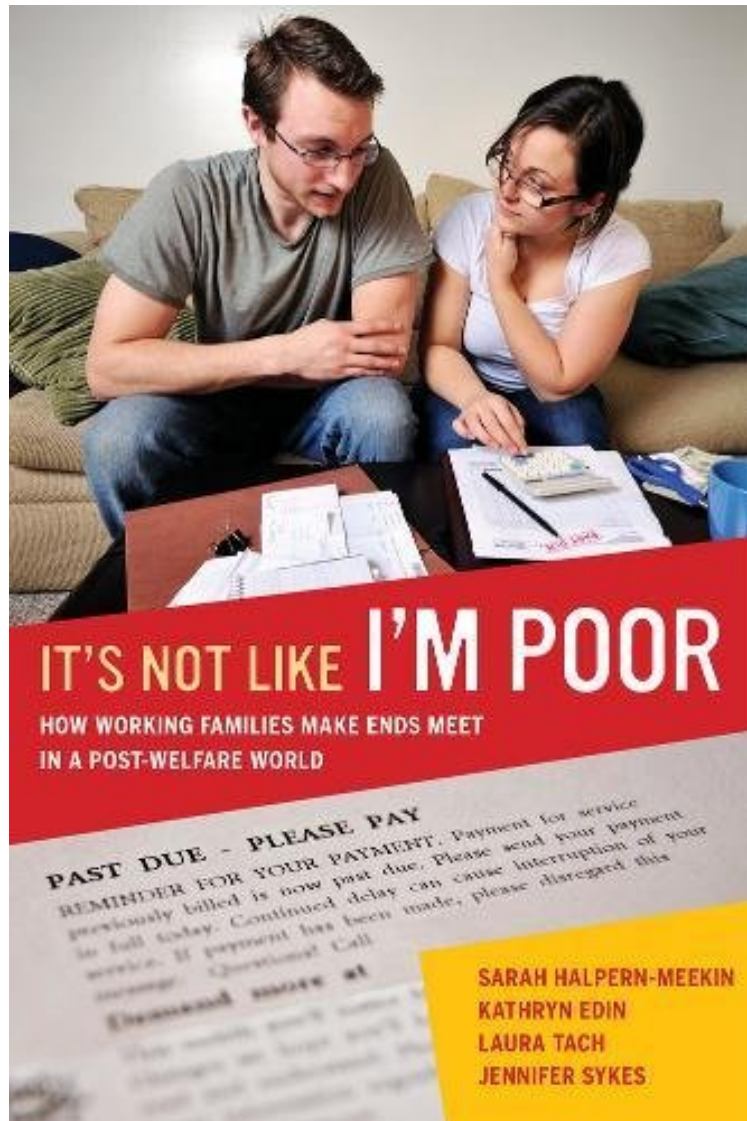


# It's Not Like I'm Poor: How Working Families Make Ends Meet in a Post-Welfare World

*Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Kathryn Edin, Laura Tach, Jennifer Sykes*  
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**Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Kathryn Edin, Laura Tach, Jennifer Sykes : It's Not Like I'm Poor: How Working Families Make Ends Meet in a Post-Welfare World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised It's Not Like I'm Poor: How Working Families Make Ends Meet in a Post-Welfare World:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Readable, scholarly, and fascinatingBy Art VandelayHalpern-

Meekin and her co-authors successfully explore the realities of being poor in America. People in poverty aren't poor urchins living with four generations and 20 children in a third-floor tenement with every child over three working in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Real poverty doesn't have to mean deprivation for families to be truly deprived of opportunity and hope. This book examines poverty without judgment and really gets at what it means to live in poverty in America today. I strongly recommend this book to anyone with anything more than a passing interest in learning about the realities of life for millions of Americans. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating Look at the Impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit By Steve King This book looks at the role and impact of work based safety nets - and especially the earned income tax credit (EITC) - on the working poor. Warren Buffet recently called for increasing the earned income tax credit and expanding the number of people who qualify for it. He also suggested paying it out monthly instead of annually. As the book points out, the EITC is not perfect nor does not solve all the working poor's problems. But the reader's of this book will learn why this powerful yet little known poverty reduction program has such broad based support. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very insightful book By Pepper I really enjoyed this book and it opened my eyes to the reality of life for the working poor.

The world of welfare has changed radically. As the poor trade welfare checks for low-wage jobs, their low earnings qualify them for a hefty check come tax time a combination of the earned income tax credit and other refunds. For many working parents this one check is like hitting the lottery, offering several months wages as well as the hope of investing in a better future. Drawing on interviews with 115 families, the authors look at how parents plan to use this annual cash windfall to build up savings, go back to school, and send their kids to college. However, these dreams of upward mobility are often dashed by the difficulty of trying to get by on meager wages. In accessible and engaging prose, *It's Not Like I'm Poor* examines the costs and benefits of the new work-based safety net, suggesting ways to augment its strengths so that more of the working poor can realize the promise of a middle-class life.

"Humanizes the working poor in an unforgettable way."