

## **Assets and Low-Income Households: An Overview of Key Findings from the *Poor Finances* Project**

Reid Cramer, New America Foundation; Signe-Mary McKernan, The Urban Institute; and Michael Sherraden, Center for Social Development, Washington University in Saint Louis.

### **Abstract**

Theory and evidence suggest that asset-based policies can promote development of individuals, families, and perhaps communities and society as a whole. The *Poor Finances* project was designed to examine the relationship between assets and low-income households. Its findings are designed to collectively explore the dynamic role that assets play in the lives of low-income families by compiling existing evidence, identifying knowledge gaps, and laying a foundation for future research and learning. Report topics include examination of the challenges in definition and measurement of assets, determinants of asset building, data sources, and assets over the life course. This overview of the project offers a synthesis of the series by highlighting key findings, identifying future research questions, and exploring a range of policy implications.