



# **Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies)**

*Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies)

Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein

## Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies)

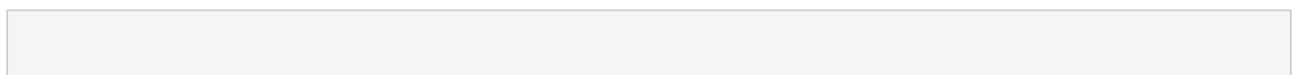
Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein

Welfare mothers are popularly viewed as passively dependent on their checks and averse to work. Reformers across the political spectrum advocate moving these women off the welfare rolls and into the labor force as the solution to their problems. *Making Ends Meet* offers dramatic evidence toward a different conclusion: In the present labor market, unskilled single mothers who hold jobs are frequently worse off than those on welfare, and neither welfare nor low-wage employment alone will support a family at subsistence levels.

Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein interviewed nearly four hundred welfare and low-income single mothers from cities in Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois, and South Carolina over a six year period. They learned the reality of these mothers' struggles to provide for their families: where their money comes from, what they spend it on, how they cope with their children's needs, and what hardships they suffer. Edin and Lein's careful budgetary analyses reveal that even a full range of welfare benefits—AFDC payments, food stamps, Medicaid, and housing subsidies—typically meet only three-fifths of a family's needs, and that funds for adequate food, clothing and other necessities are often lacking. Leaving welfare for work offers little hope for improvement, and in many cases threatens even greater hardship. Jobs for unskilled and semi-skilled women provide meager salaries, irregular or uncertain hours, frequent layoffs, and no promise of advancement. Mothers who work not only assume extra child care, medical, and transportation expenses but are also deprived of many of the housing and educational subsidies available to those on welfare. Regardless of whether they are on welfare or employed, virtually all these single mothers need to supplement their income with menial, off-the-books work and intermittent contributions from family, live-in boyfriends, their children's fathers, and local charities. In doing so, they pay a heavy price. Welfare mothers must work covertly to avoid losing benefits, while working mothers are forced to sacrifice even more time with their children.

*Making Ends Meet* demonstrates compellingly why the choice between welfare and work is more complex and risky than is commonly recognized by politicians, the media, or the public. Almost all the welfare-reliant women interviewed by Edin and Lein made repeated efforts to leave welfare for work, only to be forced to return when they lost their jobs, a child became ill, or they could not cover their bills with their wages. Mothers who managed more stable employment usually benefited from a variety of mitigating circumstances such as having a relative willing to watch their children for free, regular child support payments, or very low housing, medical, or commuting costs.

With first hand accounts and detailed financial data, *Making Ends Meet* tells the real story of the challenges, hardships, and survival strategies of America's poorest families. If this country's efforts to improve the self-sufficiency of female-headed families is to succeed, reformers will need to move beyond the myths of welfare dependency and deal with the hard realities of an unrewarding American labor market, the lack of affordable health insurance and child care for single mothers who work, and the true cost of subsistence living. *Making Ends Meet* is a realistic look at a world that so many would change and so few understand.





**Download** [Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare an ...pdf](#)



**Read Online** [Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein**

---

## **Download and Read Free Online Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Curtis Dugan:**

Book is usually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) will make you to always be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think that open or reading a book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or appropriate book with you?

#### **Maritza Kress:**

The actual book Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very ideal to you. The book Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Frances Fortier:**

Precisely why? Because this Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### **Rachel Addison:**

As we know that book is very important thing to add our information for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we would like. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This reserve Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) was filled concerning science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book which you wanted.

**Download and Read Online Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein #1D9FPOVL0Q5**

## **Read Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein for online ebook**

Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein books to read online.

### **Online Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein ebook PDF download**

**Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein Doc**

**Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein Mobipocket**

**Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (European Studies) by Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein EPub**