Grand Challenges in Social Work and Social Welfare
What are Grand Challenges?
National Academy of Engineering (2008):
Grand Challenges [deal with] broad and integrative concepts—such as the
vulnerability of our world, the sustainability of our way of life, the betterment
of civilization… They have the possibility of being solvable—they have the
ring of things we [Engineers] can and must do. But the precise path is
unclear. That makes them challenging; and their deep importance makes
them grand.
Examples of Grand Challenges
Gates Foundation: The Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative fosters scientific and technological innovation to solve key health problems in the developing world. The initiative includes the Grand Challenges in Global Health grant program and the newer Grand Challenges Explorations grant program.
Gates examples:

- Vaccines that don't require refrigeration
- Needle-free delivery systems
Grand Challenges of the 21st Century

- Solar cells as cheap as paint
- Educational software as compelling as the best video game and as effective as a personal tutor
Big Ideas@Berkeley provides funding, support, and encouragement to interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students who have 'Big Ideas.'

Contest Categories

- Creative Expression For Social Justice
- Clean & Sustainable Energy Alternatives
- Financial Literacy
- Global Poverty Alleviation
- Improving Student Life
- Information Technology for Society
- Maternal & Child Health
- Promoting Human Rights
- Scaling Up Big Ideas

Maternal & Child Health
Develop innovative solutions to safeguard the health of expectant mothers and young children.

Get Involved: Students • Mentors • Judges
Examples of Grand Challenges

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Office of Science and Technology Policy

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Science of Social Work Roundtable
Special issue of RS WP
Upcoming meeting
at USC
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GRAND CHALLENGES IN SOCIAL WORK

Harnessing Technology to Enhance Behavioral Interventions and Improve Service Delivery

Monday, November 26
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Social Welfare Library, Haviland Hall

In the next installment of the School of Social Welfare’s Grand Challenges series, we will explore the ways in which cellular phones, social media and other digital technologies can be harnessed to facilitate social service delivery and help improve client outcomes, particularly among underserved communities.

Please join us as we examine the role of these developing technologies in shaping the future of social work research and practice, and as we continue our important dialogue in defining the “Grand Challenges” ahead for the social services field.

Panelists:

Esther Crawford, Founder, Lifebook

Margaret Laws, MPP, Director – Innovations for the Underserved California Healthcare Foundation

Ricardo Muñoz, PhD, Professor Emeritus, UCSF; Professor, Palo Alto University

Moderator:

Adrian Aguilera, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare

OPEN TO ALL. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.
Berkeley Social Welfare
UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

GRAND CHALLENGES IN SOCIAL WORK
Promoting the Nation’s Health and Mental Health

Monday, October 22
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Social Welfare Library
Haviland Hall
Panelists:
David Cherin, PhD, President
California Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (CADD)

Larry Cohen, MSW, Founder and Executive Director, Prevention Institute

Respondent:
Larry Meredith, PhD, Director, Department of Health & Human Services, Marin County

Moderator:
Jeffrey Edleson, PhD, Dean and Professor, School of Social Welfare
Grand Challenges in Social Work and Social Welfare