

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Social Work

H. Luke Shaefer, associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, and associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, and professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	The University of Chicago, Social Service Administration
A.M.	2005	The University of Chicago, Social Service Administration
B.A.	2001	Oberlin College, Politics, Oberlin, Ohio

Professional Record:

2016-Present	Director, Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan
2014-Present	Associate Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work
2015-Present	Associate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
2014-Present	Faculty Affiliate, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research
2014-Present	Faculty Affiliate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research
2008-2014	Assistant Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Shaefer offers courses in the School of Social Work as well as in the Ford School. Since 2015, he has taught two courses in social work and one in public policy, Intersection of Social Work and Economics: Values and Perspectives (SW849), Social Work and Economics (SW875), and a PubPol 746, Welfare Policy, a course in the Master of Public Policy Program. The courses examine social welfare policy, understanding the economics underlying social policies, the evolution of welfare policy from 1965 to today, and American welfare policy compared to those of other nations. PhD, and MSW, and MPP students take the courses. Professor Shaefer's courses typically attract students from multiple programs. He receives distinctively strong teaching evaluations from students, in the 4.7-4.8 range (on a 5-point scale). Students are enthusiastic about the content and the caliber of the courses.

Professor Shaefer is also an excellent mentor. Over his career at the UM, he has engaged 21 students in coauthoring papers. He has served on nine dissertation committees in social work, economics, and sociology. Poverty Solutions also provides engaged learning opportunities for students from across the university, including undergraduates, in research and in social action.

Research: Professor Shaefer's research focuses on extreme poverty and social welfare policy, from Clinton's 1996 "welfare reform" to today's policies that are based on tax incentives for labor force participation and vouchers for housing, food, health, and child care. In \$2 a Day, and in his 45 scholarly articles (18 published since his last promotion), Professor Shaefer has established himself as a major scholar of contemporary American social welfare policy. Professor Shaefer's work lays bear the consequences of the 1996 welfare reform that effectively ended cash transfers for individual and for families with children, and that plunged families with few means into the challenges of unstable and atypical work situations with limited resources to care for children.

Professor Shaefer's book with Kathryn Edin, \$2 A Day, has won major awards including being named one of the 100 notable books of 2015 by the *New York Times*. His research adds important knowledge on to the contemporary study of poverty. For example, the lifelong negative effects of "Adverse Childhood Experiences," (childhood trauma) is an influential line of inquiry that links child development and

lifelong health outcomes. Professor Shaefer and his collaborators' influential 2018 article shows that family financial resources can significantly decrease the negative health effects of traumatic experiences, thus making a case for stronger income supports for the nation's poorest children. He also makes a case for better policies as he and colleagues propose the desirability and feasibility of a universal child allowance for American children.

As the leader of the university-level Poverty Solutions initiative, Professor Shaefer is redefining the way that University of Michigan faculty can and will engage with policymakers and communities to bring together science and the creation of better solutions to reduce poverty in Detroit and in Washtenaw County. Poverty Solutions' strategies combine rigorous research and action-based initiatives. Poverty Solutions created a Youth Employment Program in Washtenaw County, which had not previously sponsored such a program. Poverty Solutions is partnering with Detroit Mayor Duggan to provide more opportunities for employment in Detroit. These relationships are all characterized by respectful and mutually beneficial engagement, sensitivity to local needs and a commitment to the long term.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Shaefer H.L., Lapidus, A., Wilson, R.\* & Danziger, S.K. (2018). Associations of Income and Adversity in Childhood with Adult Health and Wellbeing. *Social Service Review*, 92(1), 69-92.

Shaefer, H.L., Collyer, S., Duncan, G., Edin, K., Garfinkel, I., Harris, D., Smeeding, T., Waldfoegel, J., Wimer, C. & Yoshikawa, H. (2018). A Universal Child Allowance: A Plan to Reduce Poverty and Income Instability among Children in the United States. *RSF: A Journal of the Social Sciences*.

Shaefer, H.L., Edin, K. & Talbert, E.\* (2015). Understanding the Dynamics of \$2-a-Day Poverty in the United States. *RSF: A Journal of the Social Sciences*, 1(1), 120-138, special double issue on "Severe Deprivation."

Fusaro, V., Levy, H., & Shaefer, H.L. (forthcoming). Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Lifetime Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States. *Demography*.

Phillips, E., Shaefer, H.L. & Gwozdek, A. (2015). Safety Net Care and Midlevel Dental Practitioners: A Case Study of the Portion of Care that might be Performed Under Various Setting and Scope-of-Practice Assumptions. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105(9), 1770-1776.

Service: Professor Shaefer's service is extensive and exemplary. He has served on the SSW and Ford School's executive committees, as well as on a university-wide committee envisioning what eventually became Poverty Solutions. His leadership of Poverty Solutions has resulted in important impact at the university, by engaging the university in providing formative work experiences for low-income youth, the region and the state of Michigan. Poverty Solutions serves as a model of community-engaged scholarship for the nation.

Outside of the university, he maintains a highly visible professional presence and is regularly sought for important national service posts such as National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Panel on the Review and Evaluation of the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Content and Design. He recently accepted an offer to serve on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ACS/OPRE Technical Working Group. He serves as a journal reviewer for important journals such as the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Demography*, the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Social Service Review*, *Social Science Research*, *Social Policy and Society*, and the *Journal of Poverty*.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "All in all, Luke's is an extremely impressive body of work, wide-ranging, policy oriented and important. In breadth, quantity and quality it seems to me to be among the best done by [junior]

scholars in this field. You should be proud of having him, and to my mind should have no hesitations about promoting him.”

Reviewer B: “Professor Shaefer would surely be promoted to Full Professor at my institution, and he would have my full support. I firmly believe he merits promotion at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer C: “Professor Schaefer’s [sic] record demonstrates a rare combination of foundational contributions to scholarship, major institutional leadership, and impactful policy engagement. His scholarly contributions, alone, would make him an outstanding candidate for a full professor position at any of the top schools of social work or policy. That he has been such a productive scholar, while also establishing a reputation (and a strong record of accomplishments) as a generative institutional leader, and as an important voice in social policy, makes this an even easier case.”

Reviewer D: “In sum, Prof. Shaefer is becoming a major national figure in poverty studies. He is highly productive and doing important work. If [my institution] had a school of social work or public policy, he would certainly be promoted here. He is well-deserving of promotion to full professor with tenure.”

Reviewer E: “... I view him to be an excellent scholar who has only just begun. ... I do firmly recommend his promotion to full professor which he surely would receive at our School.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Shaefer’s work is critical to our field, it is responsive to some of the most pressing social issues of our time, and he is a skilled scholar whose work should be widely recognized. Having reviewed all of his materials with care, I am in full support of his advancement at this time.”

Reviewer G: “I stand by my claim that this is one of the most straightforward cases in the discipline. If I were to choose a single scholar around whom to build my university’s commitment to scholarship on poverty, Luke Shaefer would be extremely high on my list, likely even at the top.”

Reviewer H: “To sum up, there is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Shaefer should be promoted to full professor with tenure at your university. I am quite certain that were he to go up for promotion at any top ranked school of social work or public policy in the United States, he would be granted full professorship with tenure.”

Reviewer I: “...I enthusiastically support the promotion of Luke Shaefer to Full Professor.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Shaefer exemplifies the excellence and he is an asset to the Ford School, the School of Social Work and the entire University of Michigan. The Ford School and the School of Social Work, unanimously and enthusiastically recommend the promotion of H. Luke Shafer to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, and professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.



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Lynn Videka  
Dean, School of Social Work



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Michael S. Barr  
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy  
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

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