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Michal Grinstein-Weiss, Ph.D.

UNC School of Social Work assistant professor [Michal Grinstein-Weiss, Ph.D.](#) is leading a new initiative to implement [child development accounts \(CDAs\)](#) in Israel. In March, she traveled to Israel for three days of meetings with Israeli government officials and United States experts on asset building.

Grinstein-Weiss, who is from Israel, and her team presented a proposal for an Israeli national CDA policy and a demonstration project to test the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a CDA program building on the child allowance structure and education system. The feedback from Minister Isaac Herzog and the Directors General was very positive. The Israelis decided to form a steering committee for CDAs in Israel to move the proposal forward, which will include Grinstein-Weiss and her team.

The following week Minister Herzog released details about the proposal to the public. The Marker, an Israeli daily newspaper, published an article entitled, "Herzog's revolutionary proposal: Long-term savings in child benefit." The article covers the specifics of the proposed long-term child development accounts and states that Herzog is determined to champion this effort.



Meeting participants included: Isaac Herzog, Israeli Minister of Social Affairs and Services; Nachum Itzkovitz, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Services; Esther Dominissini, Director General of the Israeli National Insurance Institute; Daniel Gottlieb, Deputy Director General, Research and Planning National Insurance Institute; Yekutiel Sabah, Head of Research and Planning Division at the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Services; Michael Sherraden, Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor and the founding director of the Center for Social Development at Washington University; Mark Iwry, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Retirement and Health Policy in the U.S. Department of the Treasury; Ray Boshara, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation; and Michal Grinstein-Weiss, University of North Carolina School of Social Work.

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