## CONTENTS

[List of Illustrations] v  
[ Acknowledgments] vii  
[ Abbreviations] xi  

### INTRODUCTION

1

### CHAPTER ONE

A Local Problem: Social Welfare Policy before the New Deal 20

### CHAPTER TWO

“The People of Michigan Will Take Care of Their Own”: The Great Depression and the Relief Problem 44

### CHAPTER THREE

A Contest for Home Rule: The New Deal Federalizes Social Welfare 76

### CHAPTER FOUR

“We Need Help at Once for These Poor People”: The New Deal and Michigan Families 97

### CHAPTER FIVE

“These So-Called Case Workers”: Relief Workers and Professionalization 115
CHAPTER SIX
“I Can't Make a Go of It”: Negotiating Relief with the Family at the Center 150

CHAPTER SEVEN
“The Right to Rule Ourselves”: A Contest for Local Control 184

CONCLUSION 216

Bibliography 229
Index 245