

Zoom in  
Tues, Oct. 10 at Noon

12 | Welcome  
12:05 | Topic Overview  
12:25 | Video  
12:35 | Full Conversation  
&/or Breakout Groups



## Income Inequity: Building Bridges to Get Out of Poverty

### Why Is There Still Poverty in America?

The Economist

### Thanks to Our Thought Leaders



**Wendy Gaynor**  
Orion Communities



**Kimberly Daye Hardy**  
Alliance for Health Equity



**Stephanie Miller**  
United Way  
of Chester County



**Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott**  
Domestic Violence Center  
of Chester County

# THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS



- Please be respectful to all.
- Some may never have dealt with these topics before while others may have lived through traumatic experiences.
- Unmute yourself + turn on your video to encourage open dialogue.
- Mute yourself during the video streaming.
- Raise your hand or use the chat room to make a comment or pose a question.
- Tackle problems, not people.
- Discuss the undiscussable.



## 1-Poverty in America

The best way to eradicate poverty in America is to focus on children

- Helps remove the divisive, partisan debate about culpability

## 2-Who Counts as Poor?

The official way America counts poverty is deeply flawed

## 3-Geographical Changes

America's poverty is moving from the cities to the suburbs

## 4-Race

Poverty in America continues to affect people of color most

## 5-Non-Governmental Options

How much can business & philanthropy help alleviate American poverty?

## 6-Children

Poverty has long-lasting, destructive consequences on children

## 7-The Future

Progress is possible in America's ongoing war on poverty

### **Why Is There Still Poverty in America?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i45h76ioHY>

### **How to Help America's Poor**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImMxZaZcBts>

### **How to Make Poor Areas Richer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y5moVvzayc>





## POLICY

Build structural  
change so everyone  
lives well



Individual

Understand  
your own lens/  
build rapport



Institution

Build rapport/  
improve  
outcomes



Community

Build rapport/  
work together to improve  
systems in the  
community

Adapted from J. Pfarr Consulting

## Definition of poverty is

*“the extent to which an individual does without resources”*

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY



### RESOURCES

#### FINANCIAL

Being able to purchase goods & services, & sustain it

#### EMOTIONAL

Being able to choose & control emotional responses, esp. to negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior. Shows through choices.

#### MENTAL

Having the mental abilities & acquired skills (reading, writing, computing) to deal with daily life.

#### SPIRITUAL

Believing in purpose & guidance. Hope.

#### PHYSICAL

Having physical health and mobility.

#### SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Having friends, family, & backup resources available to access in times of need.

#### RELATIONSHIPS/ROLE MODELS

Having frequent access to adult(s) who are appropriate, *nurturing*, and who do not engage in destructive behavior.

#### KNOWLEDGE OF HIDDEN RULES

Knowing the unspoken cues & habits of a group.





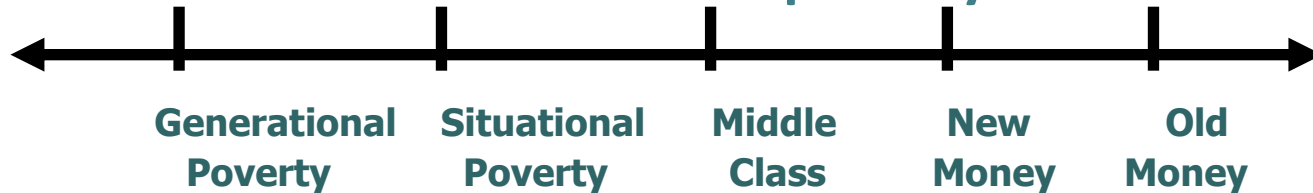
The 2023 **Federal Poverty Line** for a family of 4 = \$30,000/year  
\$2,500/month  
\$15.18/hr

## The **Self-Sufficiency Standard**

computes how much money a household requires  
to meet all basic needs without any outside assistance.

For a family of four (2 adults, 2 school-age children) living in Chester County,  
the 2023 **Self-Sufficiency Standard** = \$87,897  
\$7,325/month  
\$44.50/hr

## Generational and situational poverty are different



## Systemic Racism Explained

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO\\_bdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ)



# Causes of Poverty

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY



INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS & CIRCUMSTANCES	EXPLOITATION	COMMUNITY CONDITIONS	POLITICAL/ECONOMIC STRUCTURES
<p><i>Sample topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ <b>Racism</b></li> <li>~ <b>Discrimination</b> by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity</li> <li>~ Bad loans</li> <li>~ Credit card debt</li> <li>~ Lack of savings</li> <li>~ <b>Skill sets</b></li> <li>~ Dropping out</li> <li>~ <b>Lack of education</b></li> <li>~ <b>Alcoholism</b></li> <li>~ Job loss</li> <li>~ Teen pregnancies</li> <li>~ Early language experience</li> <li>~ Street crime</li> <li>~ Dependency</li> <li>~ Work ethic</li> <li>~ Lack of organizational skills</li> </ul>	<p><i>Sample topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ <b>Racism</b></li> <li>~ <b>Discrimination</b> by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity</li> <li>~ <b>Payday lenders</b></li> <li>~ Lease/purchase outlets</li> <li>~ Subprime mortgages</li> <li>~ Sweatshops</li> <li>~ Human trafficking</li> <li>~ <b>Employment and labor law violations</b></li> <li>~ Wage and benefits theft</li> <li>~ Some landlords</li> <li>~ Sex trade</li> <li>~ Internet scams</li> <li>~ <b>Drug trade</b></li> <li>~ Poverty premium (the poor pay more for goods and services)</li> <li>~ Day labor</li> </ul>	<p><i>Sample topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ <b>Racism</b></li> <li>~ <b>Discrimination</b> by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity</li> <li>~ <b>Layoffs</b></li> <li>~ Middle class flight</li> <li>~ Plant closings</li> <li>~ Underfunded schools</li> <li>~ <b>Weak safety net</b></li> <li>~ Criminalizing poverty</li> <li>~ Charity that leads to dependency</li> <li>~ Brain drain</li> <li>~ <b>City and regional planning</b></li> <li>~ Mix of employment/wage opportunities</li> <li>~ Loss of access to high-quality schools, childcare, and preschool</li> <li>~ Downward pressure on wages</li> </ul>	<p><i>Sample topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ <b>Racism</b></li> <li>~ <b>Discrimination</b> by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity</li> <li>~ Return on political investment</li> <li>~ Free trade agreements</li> <li>~ <b>Lack of wealth-creating mechanisms</b></li> <li>~ Stagnant wages</li> <li>~ Insecure pensions</li> <li>~ Deindustrialization</li> <li>~ Increased productivity</li> <li>~ <b>Minimum wage, living wage, self-sufficient wage</b></li> <li>~ Globalization</li> <li>~ <b>Declining middle class</b></li> <li>~ Decline in unions</li> <li>~ Taxation patterns</li> </ul>






Source: *Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting'-By World* Workbook Revised Edition by Philip E. DeVol (2013).



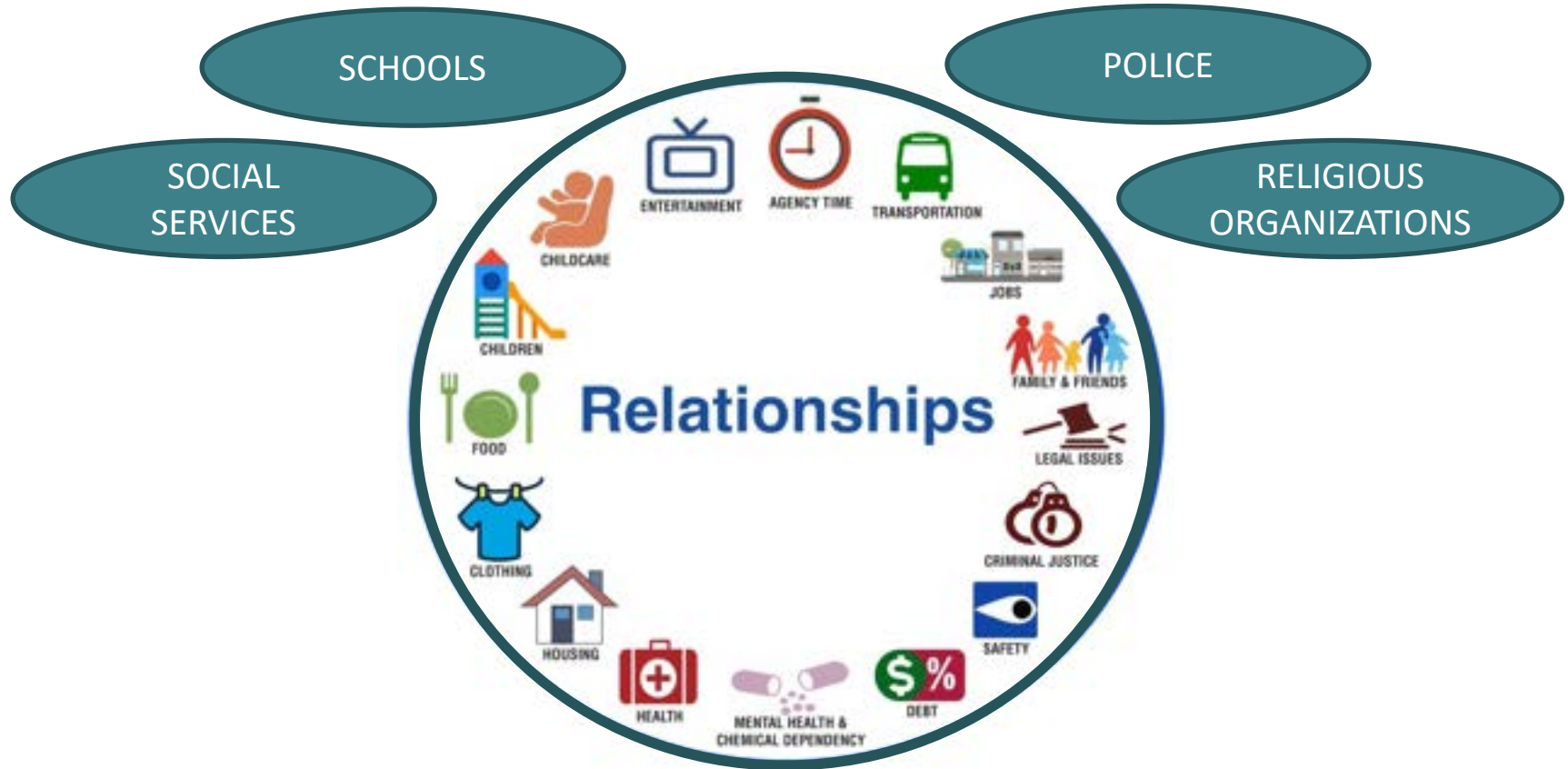
# Hidden Rules/Stereotypes of Class

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY



	Poverty	Middle Class	Wealth
<b>POSSESSIONS</b>	People.	Things.	One-of-a-kind objects, legacies, pedigrees.
<b>MONEY</b>	To be used, spent.	To be managed.	To be conserved, invested.
<b>PERSONALITY</b>	Is for entertainment. Sense of humor is highly valued.	Is for acquisition and stability. Achievement is highly valued.	Is for connections. Financial, political, social connections are highly valued.
<b>SOCIAL EMPHASIS</b>	Social inclusion of the people they like.	Emphasis is on self-governance and self-sufficiency.	Emphasis is on social exclusion.
<b>FOOD</b>	Key question: Did you have enough? Quantity important. 	Key question: Did you like it? Quality important. 	Key question: Was it presented well? Presentation important. 
<b>CLOTHING</b>	Clothing valued for individual style and expression of personality.	Clothing valued for its quality and acceptance into norm of middle class. Label important.	Clothing valued for its artistic sense and expression. Designer important.
<b>TIME</b>	Present most important. Decisions made for moment based on feelings or survival.	Future most important. Decisions made against future ramifications.	Traditions and history most important. Decisions made partially on basis of tradition and decorum.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Valued and revered as abstract but not as reality.	Crucial for climbing success ladder and making money.	Necessary tradition for making and maintaining connections.
<b>DESTINY</b>	Believes in fate. Cannot do much to mitigate chance.	Believes in choice. Can change future with good choices now.	<i>Noblesse oblige.</i>
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Casual register. Language is about survival.	Formal register. Language is about negotiation.	Formal register. Language is about networking.
<b>HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS</b>	Tends to be matriarchal.	Tends to be patriarchal.	Depends on who has money.
<b>WORLDVIEW</b>	Sees world in terms of local setting.	Sees world in terms of national setting.	Sees world in terms of international view.
<b>LOVE</b>	Love and acceptance conditional, based upon whether individual is liked.	Love and acceptance conditional and based largely upon achievement.	Love and acceptance conditional and related to social standing and connections.
<b>DRIVING FORCES</b>	Survival, relationships, entertainment.	Work, achievement.	Financial, political, social connections.
<b>HUMOR</b>	About people and sex.	About situations.	About social <i>faux pas</i> .

# Mental Model for Poverty



## Businesses

- Thrift shop
- Liquor store
- Corner store
- Rent-to-own
- Laundromat
- Fast food
- Check cashing
- Temp services
- Used car lots
- Dollar store

Developed by Phil DeVol

# Mental Model for Middle Class



## Businesses

- Shopping malls
- Bookstores/libraries
- Banks
- Fitness centers
- Veterinary clinics
- Office complexes
- Coffee shops
- Restaurants/bars
- Golf courses

Developed by Phil DeVol

# Mental Model for Wealth



This applies to the wealthiest 1% of households in the United States—those with a net worth of \$7.8 million or more.



Developed by Ruby Payne

# Community Sustainability Grid:

## A Comprehensive Planning Tool for Bridges Steering Committees

BRIDGES OUT  
OF POVERTY

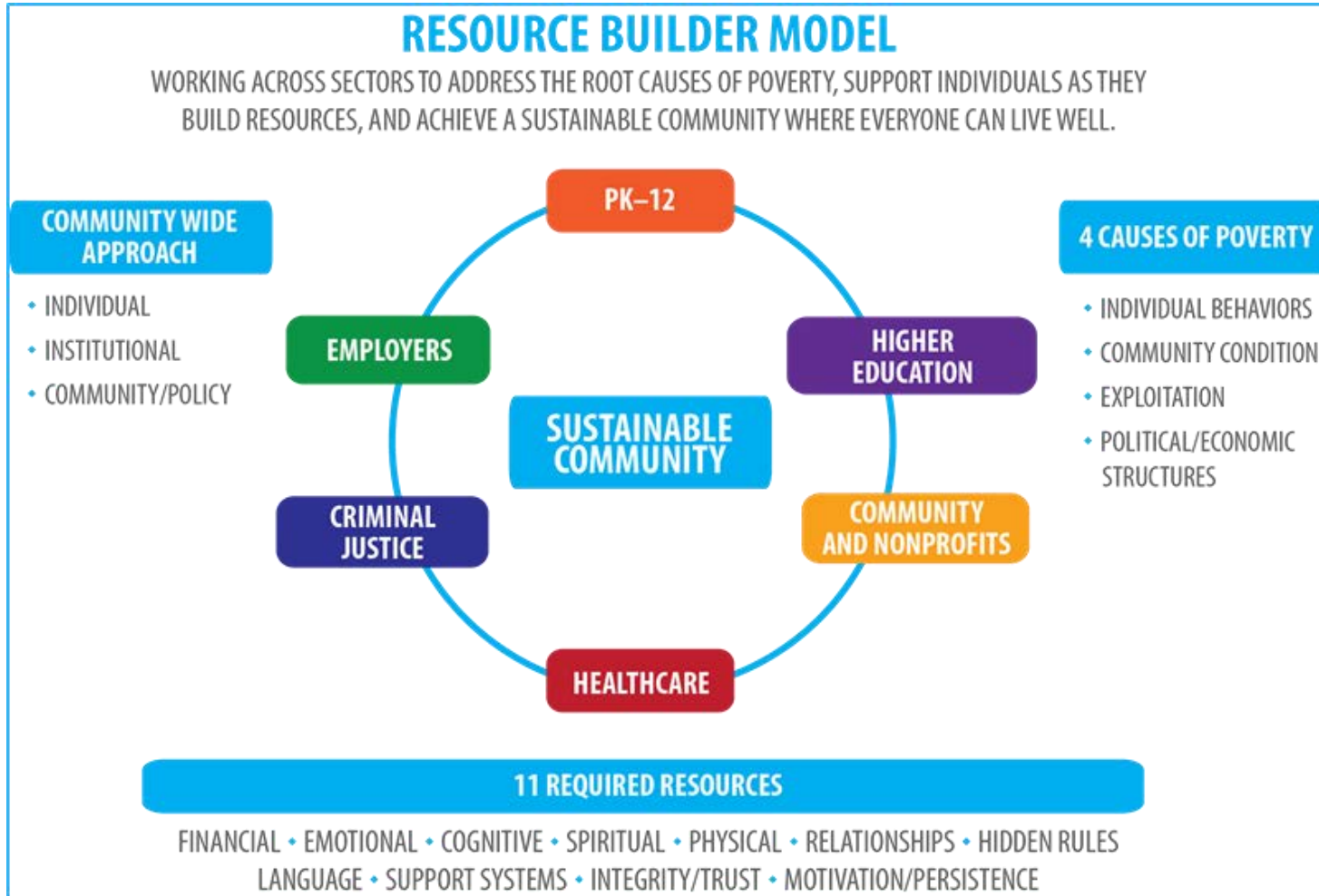


Name the Barrier: Work one barrier at a time.	Individual Behavior	Human and Social Capital in the Community	Exploitation	Political/ Economic Structures
Individual Action				
Organizational Action				
Community Action				
Policy				

Address All Causes of Poverty



Source: *Facilitator Notes for Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* by Phil DeVol.



Source: *Facilitator Notes for Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* by Phil DeVol.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i45h76ioHY>



## Why Is There Still Poverty in America?

In the U.S. the nature of poverty is changing

Almost 40 M people live in poverty:

This is 1/8 of the population

living on <\$30,000/yr for a family of 4



## Brief Intros

- Who are you? What brought you to today's Community Conversation?
- What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

## Discussion Questions

- We know lifting out of poverty is multi-faceted & long-term:  
**Housing + safety + transportation access + nutrition + health + medical access + education + employment w/adequate pay + supportive community**
- From **your perspective**, what successes have you witnessed? What works to help people move from poverty → to sustainability → to thriving?
- What can we as a community do to help people achieve "the American dream" of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Liberty & justice for all?



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## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY WORKSHOP

Bridges brings people from all sectors and economic classes together to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty.

**Friday, November 3rd**  
**9:30AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Phoenixville Recreation Center**  
501 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville, PA



**A PARTNERSHIP OF:  
CHESTER COUNTY  
BRIDGES COALITION**

A collaborative of like-minded organizations working to create an economically just community where all have the resources they need (to thrive).




<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poverty-simulation-tickets-730412833477>



# POVERTY SIMULATION

Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families. But unless you've experienced poverty, it's difficult to truly understand. This interactive event promotes poverty awareness, increases understanding and can inspire local change.

**Saturday, November 18th**  
**9 AM - 12 PM**  
**Renaissance Academy**  
413 Fairview St.  
Phoenixville, PA



**Register Here**

Contact Wendy Gaynor at Orion Communities for more information  
wgaynor@orionhope.org






<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poverty-simulation-tickets-700444627737>

# Spread the Word

## Community Conversations

Zoom in at noon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues monthly - free



DATE	TOPIC	TITLE	SPEAKER
10/10/2023	<b>Income Inequity</b>	<u><a href="#">Income Inequity: Building Bridges To Get Out of Poverty in America</a></u>	<u><a href="#">The Economist</a></u>
11/14/2023	<b>Diversity</b>	<u><a href="#">Implicit Bias--How It Effects Us &amp; How We Push Through</a></u>	Melanie Funchess TEDx Flour City
1/9/2024	<b>Equity &amp; Education</b>	<u><a href="#">The Consciousness Gap in Education - An Equity Imperative</a></u>	Dorinda Carter Andrews TEDxLansingED
2/13/2024	<b>Black History</b>	<u><a href="#">The Mission to Safe Guard Black History in the US</a></u>	Julieanna L. Richardson, Founder The HistoryMakers
3/12/2024	<b>Nutrition, Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<u><a href="#">What We Get Wrong When We Think About Food Insecurity</a></u>	Leslie Campbell TEDxYouth@PCI
4/9/2024	<b>Latinos &amp; Race</b>	<u><a href="#">A Conversation With Latinos on Race</a></u>	<u><a href="#">The New York Times</a></u>
5/14/2024	<b>Get Out The Vote ChesCo</b>	<u><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bB-J4sxLEo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bB-J4sxLEo</a></u> <u><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw7MOGISE-Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw7MOGISE-Q</a></u>	
6/11/2024	<b>Juneteenth</b>	<u><a href="#">The Truth About Juneteenth</a></u>	Daniel Middleton for Unique Coloring/Black History Explainer