

Ohio Mennonite Conference Reduce Poverty Resource Team

PROCESS: TO CREATE AN INCREASED FOCUS ON LOCAL POVERTY

PURPOSE: To identify local poverty and activate people to address it.

POVERTY: Poverty may be defined as the lack of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, security and opportunity.

1. Define your “local area”.

- a. Neighborhood, city area (Ward, etc.), town, county, etc.
- b. Define the boundaries by streets, county roads, etc.
- c. Define not to exclude but to develop your target area.

2. Define poverty in your “local area”.

- a. Lack of food (daily lunch, etc.)
- b. Lack of shelter (homelessness, transient areas, etc.)
- c. Lack of clothing (work clothing, dress clothing for job interview, etc.)
- d. Lack of health care (no insurance, use of neighborhood clinics, etc.)
- e. Lack of education (no GED, college opportunity, etc.)
- f. Lack of security (local crime rate, unsafe areas to walk in, etc.)
- g. Lack of opportunity (limited entry-level jobs, hopelessness)

Now prioritize the critical, most pressing needs from the list above.

3. Identify the services / resources needed to meet the local needs.

- a. Define existing services that specifically address these needs in that area or that area available to meet these needs, even in a partial way.
What are people or groups doing now?
- b. Identify other churches and/or groups who are or can assist with these efforts.

4. Communicate the existing local resources/programs to those in need.

- a. Flyers, public notices, media (radio, etc.), local meetings.
- b. Local area canvassing by going door-to-door.
- c. Develop a website for communications.
- d. Other _____

5. Work to establish programs to meet the needs where no current resource exists.

6. Track the progress and the volume of participation/use in the programs/efforts provided to better understand the volume of need and work to continue to address it.

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