



# Understanding the Culture of Poverty

Feed My People  
2018 Spring Agency Gathering  
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**Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph's**  
3D Community Health  
Body. Mind. Spirit.



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**“No problem can be solved  
from the same consciousness  
that created it. We have to  
think with a new mind.”**

**~Albert Einstein**

# Health Outcomes Linked to Poverty

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- ❖ The average age of death is younger in poverty
- ❖ Primary care is often the Emergency Department
- ❖ Dental visits are fewer
- ❖ Obesity and diabetes rates are higher
- ❖ Smoking rate is higher

# Poverty

**noun**, often attributive pov·er·ty \ 'pä-vər-tē \  
a : the state of one who lacks a usual or socially  
acceptable amount of money or material possessions

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## ABSOLUTE POVERTY

## RELATIVE POVERTY

Generational Poverty

Situational Poverty

Working Class Poverty

Immigrant Poverty

# Mental Models of Economic Environments

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Poverty

**Tyranny of the moment**

Middle Class

**Tyranny of the future**

Wealth

**Hierarchy (Past) / Connections**



# RESOURCES

**RELATIONSHIPS/ROLE MODELS**

**FINANCIAL**

**EMOTIONAL**

**KNOWLEDGE OF HIDDEN RULES**

**MENTAL**

**FORMAL REGISTER**

**PHYSICAL**

**SPIRITUAL**

**SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

# Knowledge of Hidden Rules

	<b>POVERTY</b>	<b>MIDDLE CLASS</b>	<b>WEALTH</b>
<b>DRIVING FORCES</b>	Survival, relationships, entertainment as a respite.	Work, achievement.	Financial, political and social connections.
<b>MONEY</b>	To be used, spent.	To be managed.	To be conserved, invested.
<b>SOCIAL EMPHASIS</b>	Social inclusion of like people.	Self-governance and self-sufficiency.	Social exclusion.
<b>FOOD</b>	Quantity	Quality	Presentation
<b>CLOTHING</b>	Valued for individual style and personality.	Valued for acceptance into norm. Label.	Valued for its artistic and expression. Designer.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Valued and revered.	Crucial for success.	Tradition.

# Implications of Hidden Rules

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- ASSUMPTIONS ARE MADE ABOUT INTELLIGENCE AND APPROACHES TO LIFE.

LACK OF RESOURCES  $\neq$  LACK OF INTELLIGENCE

- ATTITUDES THAT PEOPLE HAVE ARE A PART OF THEIR CULTURE AND BELIEF SYSTEMS.

MIDDLE CLASS SOLUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED

- UNDERSTANDING THIS WILL HELP LESSEN ANGER, FRUSTRATION AND PREJUDICE FELT WHEN WORKING WITH PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM THEMSELVES.



# Key Points

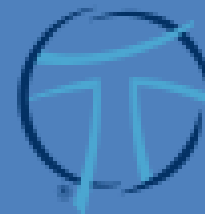
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- Poverty is relative
- Poverty occurs in all races and all countries
- Generational poverty and situational poverty are different
- Society in general operates from middle-class norms
- We cannot blame the victims of poverty for being in poverty.
- We cannot continue to support stereotypes and prejudices.



Thank you

HSHS



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