

ENDING POVERTY PATHWAYS

COURSE WORKBOOK

Vibrant Communities
T A M A R A C K I N S T I T U T E



ENDING POVERTY
DEEPENING COMMUNITY
BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES
CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

OVERVIEW

This workbook supports the Vibrant Communities – Communities Ending Poverty – Ending Poverty Pathways Online Course. Course participants will complete each module by applying learning concepts to their own community context and/or existing poverty reduction efforts.

By the end of this workbook, participants should be able to:

- Make the case by using data and stories for proven pathways that contribute to the end of poverty
- Engage government, business, non-profit, and lived/living experience strategically to drive local ending poverty work forward
- Prioritize high impact activities, strategies, and policies to focus ending poverty efforts based on what is working across the Communities Ending Poverty network
- Commit to actioning ending Poverty Pathways using a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach.

When completing the exercises – challenge yourself! If you're a beginner, try to complete some of the advanced questions; if already advanced, gather data and information you may be missing and discuss learning implications with your partners or colleagues to help you reflect on your current practices.

**“My neighbour’s strength is my strength
It means, if my neighbour’s success is my
success, then my neighbour’s failure must also
be my failure.
We all have work to do together.”**

—
Mayor Naheed Nenshi, City of Calgary

DEFINITIONS

Refer to the definitions in Table 1 as you read and work through this Workbook.

General Terms

Poverty – The condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic level of living standards and to facilitate integration and participation in society. Measured by Market Basket Measure (MBM).

Common agenda – A shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions

Mutually reinforcing activities – Participant activities are differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action

Attribution – Establishing a clear link between an intervention and results

Contribution – Acknowledging an intervention is just one of many factors behind community change and thereby seeking to assess the relative contribution of an intervention

Community – Citizens that share the same geographic space (ex. A municipality or a neighbourhood)

Engagement – Citizens inspired to action, working and learning together on behalf of their communities to create and realize bold visions for the future

Collaborative – A group of people coming together for a common purpose (aka Roundtable, Taskforce, Coalition, Network, Partnership, Committee)

Intervention Terms

Intervention – A program, service or project

Program – A set of structured activities that provide a tangible benefit

Policy – A set of principles or regulations governing the way decision-makers respond to challenges

Equity – Equality of outcome achieved by distributing opportunities and resources uniquely for different circumstances

Working Poverty – Individuals earning at least \$3,000 in working income, but still falling below the Low Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT).

Chronic Homelessness – Those who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e. 180+ cumulative nights)

Basic Income – Unconditional cash transfers from government to individuals

Child Care – Daycare by someone other than the child's parents or legal guardian(s)

MODULE 1 – THE END OF POVERTY

Purpose: Everyone has different personal and/or professional reasons for addressing poverty. Start by explicitly grounding yourself in your purpose and context. Use your response to this question to guide how shallow or deep to go with each subsequent module in this course.

Beginner: Why is ending poverty important to you? Why is ending poverty important for your community?

Advanced: What are the primary reasons you and your collaborative partners want to end poverty?

MODULE 2 – ENDING WORKING POVERTY

Purpose: Identify local influencers and untapped assets that can create better outcomes for low-wage workers in your community.

Beginner: Considering the roles that government, employers, the community, and individuals can play in ending working poverty. In 250 or less words, explain why ending poverty is something that requires everyone to agree that “we all have a role to play.” Pick the sector you most identify with and describe the role it currently plays in your community in reducing poverty, then add what more it could do.

Advanced: Seek out data from Statistics Canada on poverty rates from your community and identify which citizen groups are disproportionately affected (hint: living wage data sources are often local). Using both your local information and resources from this module, answer:

1. What community-level supports are currently available in your community and how could they be scaled to better support people in working poverty to move out of it? What partnerships or resources would be needed to make it happen?

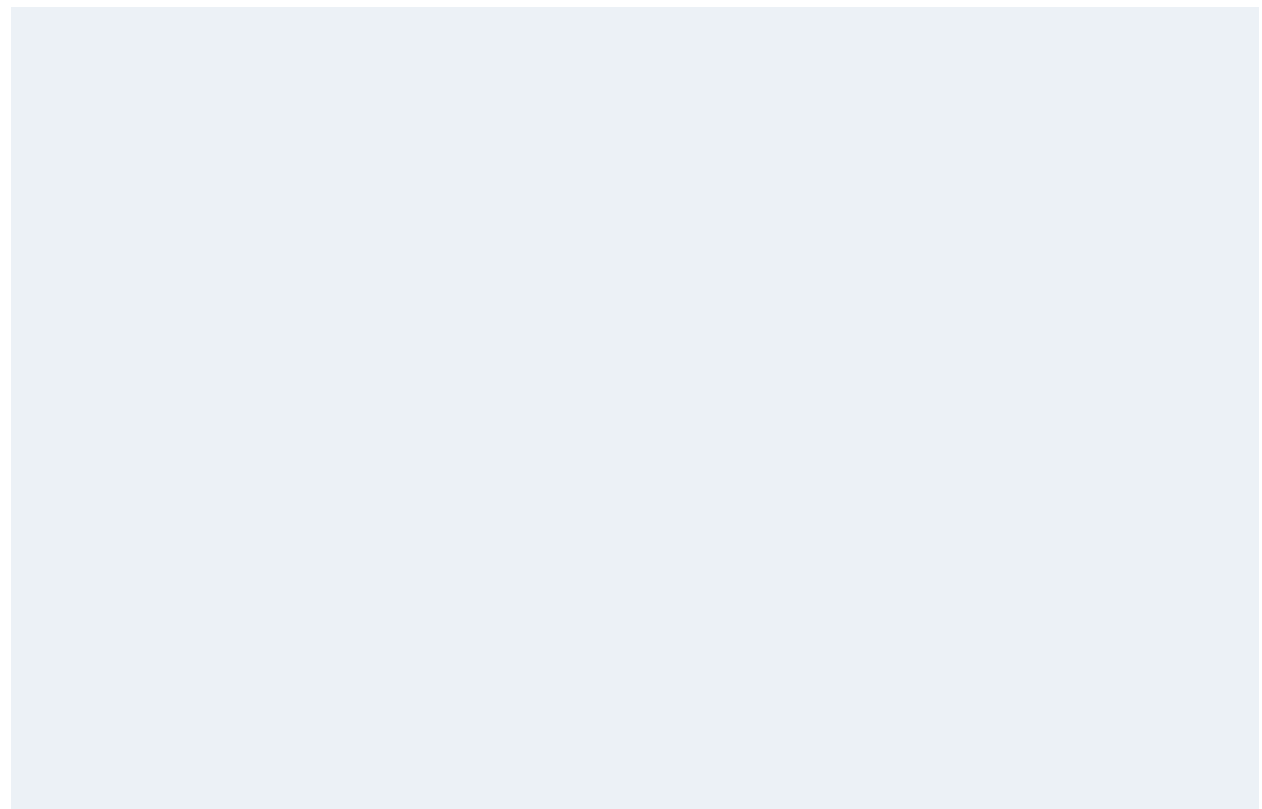
2. How are you currently and how could you more effectively influence your local government and employers to adopt ending working poverty policies? Who else might need to be at the table to make it happen?

3. If ending working poverty efforts are successful, which demographics will remain in poverty?

MODULE 3 – FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS ENDING POVERTY

Purpose: Identify un- or under-utilized opportunities to maximize benefits of federal and provincial/territorial strategies for individuals and families living in poverty and for the community.

Beginner: What did you already know and what did you learn through this module?



Advanced: Explore mutually reinforcing activities

1. Choose one of your poverty reduction plan's priority areas where you think upper levels of government should be doing more (e.g., reduce the subsidized housing waitlist). Map out the alignment in the suggested intervention from each local sector to the federal government to identify the specific ask and where else challenges/assets exist to make an impact for individuals and families in your community. Do this for each category below:

Local non-profits, local businesses, people with lived/living experience, municipal government, provincial/territorial government, federal government.

[illegible]

2. Reflection:

What strategies have we used to inform each of these sectors on the issue?

What has our call to action been?

What do we need to do differently?

What leverage do we have locally or what leverage can we create to action the above?

Who are the influencers that need to be part of this call to action?

MODULE 4 – CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

ENDING POVERTY

Purpose: Identify a critical role for all sectors in a community-wide ending poverty effort and brainstorm how to engage them to have a population-level impact.

Beginner: How is your Municipality and the community at-large responding to poverty? What might they learn from the Communities Ending Poverty movement?

Advanced:

Is poverty reduction work in your community municipally or community-led? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this?

What is the percentage breakdown of the four sectors (municipal, business, non-profit and lived/living experience) represented at the table? Is there representation of Indigenous and other racialized groups?

Who is missing or under-represented and which unique partners could you bring on? How will you get them there? How will you sustain their engagement?

Which of the 10 ideas from the TEN Lived Experience guide could you apply to meaningfully engage people with lived/living experience in your work?

Which of the 10 ideas from the TEN Business guide could you use to meaningfully engage business leaders?

How are you and your collaborative partnering with Indigenous communities to support Indigenous people living in urban settings?

MODULE 5 – BIG IDEAS FOR ENDING POVERTY

Purpose: Reflect on how you and your collaborative are helping to move forward some of the highest-impact evidence-based programs and policies in Canada right now.

Beginner: Which of the big ideas introduced in this module are most applicable to your community and why? In what ways could you get started in addressing them?

Advanced:

Choose one of the module's 'big ideas' – basic income, quality childcare or Built for Zero.

In which ways could this intervention support your community's needs?

Which networks are already active in the above areas (e.g. provincial Basic Income networks, decent work movements, early childhood advocacy groups, CAEH-BFZ communities)?

- How could you get involved in their work?
- How could your collaborative compliment or support their work? (e.g. working with employers around decent work; offering financial empowerment for tax filing and access to benefits; ECE training or providing wrap-around housing supports)

Choose an intervention that is missing. Which influencers do you need to build the case for support and what three main points must it include? What is your call to action?

NOW WHAT?

Once you have finished the exercises and explored the supporting materials, keep an eye on your email for when the small group learning sessions will occur. This is an opportunity to dive deeper into the content, confirm your understanding and receive personalized insights.

Interested in learning more about Communities Ending Poverty? Vibrant Communities Canada membership brings local poverty reduction initiatives into a national movement that supports them to build capacity and increase the success of their efforts. Members access discounts and subsidies for events, publications, and coaching, and gain incredible networking opportunities with change leaders, practitioners, and a community of peers across Canada and beyond.

Thank you so much for learning with us.

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