

Next Steps

Please complete the following Next Steps, to integrate your experiences within your own schools and communities with the information presented in this chapter.

1. In your community, what are some of the largest contributors to poverty, and what is the historical background for each of these contributors? (For example, did a factory close down or an industry die off? Is there a Native American reservation nearby? Is it a rural area with reduced resources and services?)
2. Where have all the jobs in your community gone? Are they coming back, or are new job sectors coming in?
3. Estimate how many students in your classroom, school, or district are impacted by different factors of poverty (low wages, lack of good paying jobs, housing, health care, criminal justice system, inadequate access to education or training for adults, and so on).
4. How many families in your classroom, school, or district would benefit from each item in the nine-point plan? Would voters in your community support the nine-point plan?
5. What are two to four of your biggest ah-has or takeaways from this chapter, framing the reality of poverty in the United States? What did you already know? What surprised you?