

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World

Module Summary

Module 1: My Life Now – Defining what poverty is like in our community

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Base plans on accurate mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth.

Module 2: Theory of Change – Understanding Tyranny of the moment – Breaking out of the trap

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Use the lens of economic class to understand and take responsibility for your own societal experience, while being open to the experience of others.

Module 3: The Rich/Poor Gap and Research on Causes of Poverty – Explore and understand all causes of poverty

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Address all causes of poverty (four principal areas of research: Individual Behaviors and Circumstances, Community Conditions, Exploitation, Political/Economic Structures).

Module 4: Hidden Rules of Economic Class – Reduce judgmental attitudes and help people come together across class lines to solve problems

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Define poverty as the extent to which a person, institution, or community does without resources.

Module 5: The Importance of Language – Helps us learn, solve problems, and create respectful relationships

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Build relationships of mutual respect.

Module 6: Eleven Resources – Building individual, institutional, and community resources

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Base plans on the premise that people in all classes, races, sectors, and political persuasions are problem solvers and need to be at the decision-making table.

Module 7: Self-Assessment of Resources – Assess ourselves

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: At the intersection of poverty with other social disparities (race, gender, physical ability, etc.) address inequalities in access to resources.

Module 8: Community Assessment – Assess the strengths and weaknesses of our community

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: At the individual, institutional and community/policy levels: Stabilize the environment, remove barriers to transition, and build resources.

Module 9: Building Resources – Investigate HOW to build our own resources

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Build long-term support for individual, institutional and community/policy transitions.

Module 10: Personal and Community Plans – Create a future story for ourselves and a mental model for community prosperity

BRIDGES CORE CONSTRUCT: Build economically sustainable communities in which everyone can live well.