

Community Action

Poverty Simulation



Step inside poverty.

Feel it, see it, live it ...understand it.

You are Stella, age 85, and widowed. You are in reasonably good health, but require arthritis medicine not covered by Medicare/Medicaid. You live in the downstairs of your own, two-story home. You took in two renters last year, and they left unexpectedly without paying and left your place in some disrepair. You use public transportation to get around, but are fearful of going out by yourself. You are paying off a loan for furnace repair. Your only income is \$552 a month in SSI. You have received information from a friend that your local community action agency may be able to help with your utility bills.

WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

No Poverty Simulations are scheduled at this time.

If you would like to find out more about having a poverty simulation in your community, call Mary Cupp, 660.476.2185

Understanding the day-to-day reality of poverty is important for everyone involved in fighting poverty – from policymakers to service providers.

MISSOURI'S COMMUNITY ACTION POVERTY SIMULATION (CAPS) is a unique tool that helps people begin to understand what life is like with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress.

During a simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families, including single parents, people with disabilities, and senior citizens on Social Security. The task of each family is to provide for food, shelter and other basic necessities during four, 15-minute "weeks." Families interact with community resources.

Although it uses "play" money, fictional scenarios and time limits, CAPS is not a game. It's a simulation that enables participants to view poverty from different angles and then to discuss the potential for change within local communities. It's designed to sensitize those who frequently deal with low-income families and to create a broader awareness among policymakers and community leaders.

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