



We offer the following services:

Energy related services - includes programs designed to assist low-income families with their heating, cooling, and water bills. Our weatherization program involves the installation of energy efficient measures in homes to reduce energy usage and save year-round on utility costs.

Housing Assistance – includes rent/mortgage assistance, home buyer education, home repair, credit counseling, and the IDA Savings Program which offers matched savings for the purchase of a home, starting your own business, or going back to school.

Family Development Programs – includes drug & alcohol education, anger management classes, case management, youth-at-risk program, resource distribution, job readiness and placement, life skills training, and HiSET classes.

Food Stability Programs – includes a food pantry at all sites, community gardens, and two farm sites. Workshops are provided on gardening, and healthy cooking. A paid teen farm program is offered in the summer.

We also conduct Employment Fairs, Resource Fairs and Step-Up to Leadership training.



The mission of Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. is to end poverty.



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Poverty Simulation

How do we get our neighbors, leaders, and communities to see poverty's effects on the cycles of teen pregnancy, drug & alcohol abuse, violence, and incarceration?

Thousands of individuals and families in St. Louis County face poverty every day.

A Poverty Simulation opens people's eyes to the human cost of poverty.

This simulation is a unique opportunity and helps the community understand life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress.

Using a simulation kit, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. Family scenarios help participants decide how to seek services and support, obtain financial assistance, and determine how to spend what little money the family has in order to survive.



A Month in the life ...

Week 1

The month begins and your family must decide what to do first.

"I have no job and my bills are due."

"I have to get to work and my mother is too sick to help care for my baby."

"Where do I go, what do I do?"

Week 2

Participants realize the frustration to wait in line and not have enough money to pay the bills. "If I pay my utilities and rent, how do I purchase groceries or medication?"

Week 3

Participants who have not paid their mortgage receive eviction notices.

"My child is skipping school and suddenly offers to help purchase groceries. What do I do?"

Week 4

Participants have to pay bills and feed their family by the end of the week.

"I wonder what the minimum amount is that I can pay to keep my utilities on?"



A Unique Opportunity...

In the simulation, 40 -100 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty.

Some examples of families are those recently unemployed, senior citizens receiving social security, or grandparents raising their grandchildren. Each family is tasked to provide basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute "weeks".

The simulation is conducted in a large room where families sit in groups in the center. Tables surround the perimeter which represent community resources and services for the families. These services include a bank, a super center, a Community Action Agency, an employer, a utility company, a pawn shop, a grocery store, a DFS office, a payday and title loan facility, a daycare, and a school.

For more information or to schedule a Poverty Simulation contact:

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