

Defining Poverty*

Generational Poverty

- Family have never owned land
- Never knew anyone who benefited from education
- Never knew anyone who moved up or was respected in a job
- Highly mobile
- High family illiteracy
- Focus is on making it through the day

Working Class Poverty

- Working, but rarely have money for any extra
- Most do not own property
- Live paycheck to paycheck
- Few have health care
- Focus on making it two weeks or through the month
- Poverty seen as personal deficiency

Immigrant Poverty

- Have little or no resources
- Language & culture barriers
- Seem to do better than those born into poverty in America
- Views poverty as a system problem

Depression Era Poverty

- A time when the societal message was, “We are all in this together.”
- Poverty seen as a societal problem

Middle Class Temporary/Situational Poverty

- Person grows up in a stable environment
- Surrounded by people who are educated or able to earn a living wage
- Attends school regularly
- Common to have health insurance
- Has a crisis (health, Divorce, loss of job, etc.) and income drops
- Generally able to make it back to middle class
- Has not internalized the poverty as their own fault

*Dr. Donna Beegle, Communication Across Barriers
www.combarriers.com

