Thank you for joining us for today’s webinar:

Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion of the Impact of Family and Community Ties for Low-Income Populations

The webinar will begin promptly at 12pm CT (1pm ET, 11am MT, 10am PT)
Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion of the Impact of Family and Community Ties for Low-Income Populations

December 3, 2019
12pm-1pm CST

Brought to you by:
Center for Financial Security
at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion of the Impact of Family and Community Ties for Low-Income Populations

- Welcome
- Presentations
  - Study Overview & Findings
  - Presenter: UW-Madison Division of Extension
  - Presenter: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
  - Presenter: The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County
- Q & A
- Sign off
Our Presenters

Sarah Halpern-Meekin
Associate Professor
Human Development and Family Studies
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Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator
UW-Madison Division of Extension

Johnna Georgia
Program Director
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County

Margie Zutter
Executive Director
RSVP of Dane County, Inc.

Diana Jost
Assistant Director
RSVP of Dane County, Inc.
Social Poverty

Low-Income Parents and the Struggle for Family and Community Ties
The government can’t “sprinkle magic dust on poor unmarried parents, hook them up and expect poverty to disappear.”
– Julieanne Malveaux, USA Today

“Marriage will not fix poverty.”
– Rebecca Rosen, The Atlantic

“a little noticed twist on social engineering by government.”
– Alexandra Starr, Business Week
“It was like Family Expectations put a phrase or a word above the problem we had. It was like ‘This is your problem here’ so now we knew how to take . . . what steps we needed to . . . take care of it, so that was definitely building us up stronger each week.”
- Robert, 21, first-time father

- Denelle, 30, mother of two
Why does social poverty matter?

• Social isolation and lacking emotional supports are tied to poorer health behaviors and mental and physical health outcomes, including mortality (Cacioppo & Patrick 2008; Holt-Lundstad et al. 2015)

• Emotional supports during pregnancy are associated with a lower risk of postpartum depression and better birth outcomes (Collins et al. 1993; Lueck et al. 2013; Nylen, O’Hara, & Engeldinger 2013; Stapleton et al. 2012)

• Social support facilitates better parenting and promotes children’s development (Angley et al. 2015; Bono, Sy, & Kopp 2016; Byrnes & Mill 2012)
Vulnerability to Social Poverty

- Age
- Multiple transitions
  - Transition to adulthood
  - Transition to partnership
  - Transition to parenthood
- Instability undermines trust in self and partner
How do parents see Family Expectations building their relational resources?

- Assistance navigating transitions
- Establish shared expectations/norms
- Sense of shared commitment to building relationship
- Social supports within program environment
- Stronger sense of partnership as a relational resource
Addressing Social Poverty in Public Policy

- Design programs to promote dignity and human connection
- Deliver social services in a way that builds relationships
Building social supports for those living in a homeless shelter

Amanda Kostman
Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator
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Rent Smart

In addition to the Rent Smart curriculum, a successful tenant education program requires a local partnership. Involvement of local rental housing providers, local housing authorities and other tenant service providers in design and delivery of the local program is essential. The 2017 revised curriculum consists of six modules, designed to be taught separately or in combination.

The curriculum incorporates case studies that reflect these types of circumstances allowing participants to apply their own knowledge and build on it. Instructors can draw on a variety of active learning elements across the modules to modify the course to fit their specific audience.

https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/rentsmart/
Rent Smart Basics

• Basic Money Management principles.
• Knowing what home would fit needs before starting a search.
• Looking objectively at what a landlord does in the application process.
• Interviewing and choosing landlords.
• Positive communication.
• Clear maintenance and repair expectations.
• Moving in and out protocol.
How it can be used to build social supports

- Positive landlord relationship
- Rent Smart Certificate to help with application acceptance.
- Awareness of positive and negative consequences of using social support network.
- Being creative in using their social supports.
- Building relationship that are social supports.
- Bridge into financial coaching.
Welcome to the Financial Coaching Strategies website. Financial Coaching is a unique tool for increasing individuals' financial literacy, distinct from counseling, advising, or teaching. This website is meant to be a resource for those interested in learning more about coaching, and a forum for those who are already practicing coaching in their communities. We will post tools and information on models with which we've had or heard about success. We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas as well.

Thank you for visiting, and please let us know if you have thoughts on how to make this site more helpful or user-friendly!

J. Michael Collins
Associate Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist; Faculty Director, Center for Financial Security

We thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation and University of Wisconsin-Extension for their support of financial coaching.

https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/financialcoaching/
Financial Coaching Basics

• Based on a review of more than two dozen programs nationally, financial coaching:
  • Focuses on improving long-term financial behavior;
  • Facilitates clients to set and achieve financial goals largely on their own;
  • Helps clients practice new behaviors and monitors those behaviors over time; and
  • Targets clients with a minimum level of financial skills and experience.

• Goals of Coaching:
  • Achieve client-defined goals
  • Address immediate issues
  • Support specific actions to meet goals
  • Improve financial situations
  • Change financial behaviors
  • Facilitate decision-making
  • Provide tools, resources and referrals

• Typical Coaching Activities:
  • Alliance with client
  • Set goals
  • Develop action plan
  • Identify resources, tools and services
  • Monitor client progress
  • Make referrals as needed
Thank you!

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Johnna Georgia
Program Director
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
Together, We are Defenders of Potential

**Mission**
- Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth

**Vision**
- All youth achieve their full potential
Who We Serve - 2018

**KIDS SERVED:** 642

**Average Match Length:** 39 months

**School Based:** 24 months

**Age of Kids Served:** 6-18

**Demographics:**

- **Gender:** 53% Girls, 47% Boys
- **Low Income:** 91% (determined by using free and reduced lunch)
- **Ethnicity:** 87% Non-White, 13% White
- **Household Profile:** 71% Single or No Parent Families

**Results:**

- **89%** of Littles maintained or improved their attitude toward school
- **80%** of Littles maintained or improved their grades
- **82%** of Littles had higher educational expectations for their future
- **90%** of Littles get along better with their parents
- **90%** of Littles felt more self-confident
- **89%** of Littles thought smoking, drinking, and using drugs would negatively impact their future

**93%** of Littles had positive peer relationships
Building Social Resources
3 Concrete Examples
Challenges

You Need a Foundation

- Closures due to moves
- Teenage Angst – matches that fizzle in the high school years
- Reframing the conversation
THANK YOU

Consider Being a BIG!

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RSVP of Dane County

501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization

MISSION:
To make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help deliver priority services to people of all ages, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.
Senior Corps in Wisconsin

- 6,900 Senior Corps volunteers
- 1,400 young people tutored by Foster Grandparents
- 300 homebound seniors helped by Senior Companions
- 500 local organizations benefit from RSVP volunteers

NationalService.gov/Wisconsin
Per 2018 Senior Corp volunteer survey: 78% of volunteers reported feeling less depressed!

AND 84% of volunteers reported improved health!

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have 2 hands – 1 for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.” -Audrey Hepburn

After retirement or a significant life change, a volunteer can find new meaning & direction in their lives by helping others!
WIN / WIN !!!!

Volunteering benefits both VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS (community members who are receiving RSVP services) ...where volunteers make a difference.
RSVP of Dane County Programs

Community Connections
Bus Buddy

Driver Services
Vets Helping Vets
Food Bridge

Group Projects

Intergenerational/
Foster Grandparents

TRIAD

Also Help Low-Income Older Adults by:

- Community Connection volunteers help at nutrition sites, which provide nutritious meals
- A bus buddy volunteer teaches the Madison Bus route, which allows for affordable transportation
- Driver Services/ Vets Helping Vets volunteers provide over 9,300 rides to over 2,000 older adults & veterans at no charge
- Home delivered meals volunteers deliver over 86,000 meals at no charge
- Food Bridge volunteers deliver food pantry groceries to homebound seniors at no charge
- Group Project volunteers donate comfort and warm items, which are critical needs in life
- Foster Grandparent volunteer’s tax-free stipend meets basic living expenses
Community Connections
Jan Karst, Program Coordinator

*First line of communication for interested volunteers!

*Personalized placement based on interests!

*In the Community Connections program alone, a volunteer can choose from 70 different nonprofits to devote their time to!

Community nonprofits include:
- ReStore
- VA Hospital
- ARC
- Hospicecare
- Second Harvest
- Libraries & Senior Centers

We make a living by what we get
We make a life by what we give.

~ Winston Churchill

www.3animals4living.blogspot.com
Many seniors do not use the Madison metro buses because they haven't had the opportunity to learn the bus system. RSVP's Bus Buddy Program pairs seasoned bus riders with learners. Once seniors have the confidence to travel around the city via bus, their world expands. They have the freedom to go to senior centers, shopping, and entertainment. They can plan a fun outing with friends rather than stay confined to their home. During the summer, there are six monthly group tours scheduled that include instructions on how to use the bus, a visit to a local attraction and a complimentary lunch.
**Medical Rides**
Provide rides to medical appointments for older adults and veterans (VHV), without personal transportation.
*The volunteer driver receives mileage reimbursement and a flexible schedule.*

**Home Delivered Meals**
RSVP drivers work with Dane County senior centers to deliver hot, nutritious meals to seniors at their homes.

**Food Bridge**
RSVP Volunteers pick up food at least once a month from the River Food Pantry and deliver these groceries to low-income seniors in Madison and Monona who are unable to go to the food pantry themselves.

“While riding with a fellow veteran we talk about different conflicts, but then realize we have the same story”
- RSVP Vets Helping Vets Driver
Intergenerational volunteers donate their time by tutoring in Dane county schools to help students succeed academically.

The computer buddy program is a correspondence once a week with an assigned student by blogging as a pal from your home computer.

As a volunteer you could help stock shelves or help families shop in school food pantries.

Through a partnership with the Girl Scouts of WI, a volunteer can lead a group of diverse girls by teaching them STEM activities.

WWII History Project is where volunteers go to Memorial high school once a year, and share their life experience during WWII with History students.

The Foster Grandparent program is for low-income seniors who receive a tax-free stipend, meal and travel reimbursement to tutor students 1:1 with exceptional or special needs in Dane County elementary schools, preschools and HeadStarts. The Foster Grandparent has to commit to a minimum of 5 hours a week to the school, attend monthly in-services, love children and attend recognition events for their dedication to the program.

You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss
**Group Projects & Homeworkers**
Kate Seal, Program Coordinator

**MISSION**
*Addresses critical needs *(warmth, safety and comfort)* of some of the less fortunate members of our Dane County community,
*...while meeting the social, quality of life, and mental health needs of its older volunteers.*

**Handcrafted Items**
- Quilts
- Hats / Mittens / Scarves
- Afghans / Prayer Shawls
- Nap Pillows
- Baby Items (hats, blankets, booties, sweaters)
- Fidget Quilts / Activity Muffs
- Tote Bags

**We gladly accept donations of fabric and yarn!!!**

***Over 250 volunteers in Group Projects***
***20 groups across Dane Co***
**Dozens of homeworkers***
***Over 3000 lbs of recycled/donated material used to create comfort items***
***Over 48,000 volunteer hours***
***Over 100 Dane County non-profits receive donations***
***Over 12,000 items donated - adults & children***
Community Nonprofit

Recipients include:
Access Community Healthcare;
After School Clubs, Inc. &
Madison South Rotary;
Heartland & Agrace Hospicecare, MMSD Schools,
Today Not Tomorrow (Project Babies);
Pregnancy Helpline;
Reach Dane/Head Start sites;
Unity Point - Meriter Spiritual Care;
Neighborhood House Community Center;
Good Shepherd Clothes Closet;
CWA – The Triangle Housing;
Rainbow Project;
WI Youth Program;
The Open Seat @UW
Triad’s mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults through education and active participation in statewide programs and projects.

Triad is a national program that promotes safety & crime prevention for seniors. Monthly presentations on topics related to crime prevention & safety are held throughout Dane county, free of charge. (identity theft, bullying, hoarding, scams/frauds, emergency preparedness & more)

TRIAD advocates for:
- Crime Prevention
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Reassurance Strategies
- other (timely) safety programs, like each fall’s Winterization Car Checks, free of charge to those over 50.
RSVP of Dane County is always recruiting to find new volunteers who want to make a difference!

Please contact RSVP of Dane County at 608-238-7787 or www.rsvpdane.org

Please spread the word about RSVP of Dane County’s Programs.

Thank You!!
Thank you for joining the Center for Financial Security for today’s webinar. Please remember that today’s webinar was recorded and will be posted on our websites.

Please join us for our January 8th webinar:

**Housing Assistance and SSI Caseload Shifting**

Please contact Hallie Lienhardt with questions:

Hallie.lienhardt@wisc.edu

608-890-0229