Bridges Out of Poverty is a framework for understanding poverty. It is about appreciating economic diversity. If we can just shift our thinking about economics, then we have the power to shape our reality. Having or not having doesn't change your thinking.

POSITIVELY IMPACT THE EDUCATION AND LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY.

Photo credit: BridgeHunter.com

"No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship."
-Dr. James Comer

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY WORKSHOP

Photo credit: donnan.com

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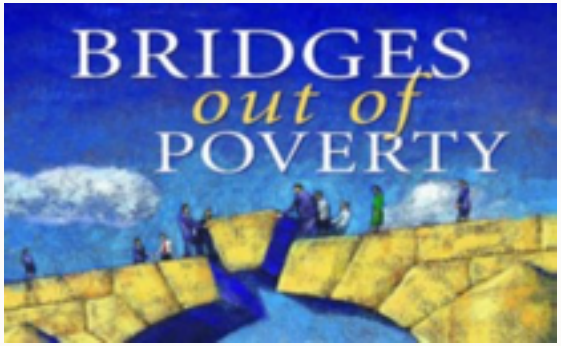

"When we work diligently to design learning tasks that are in simple and sound sequence and that reinforce learning, we address the disparity in political power more directly than if we preach loudly on social and economic injustice. These rather technical principles and practices—reinforcement and sequence—are tough to use. They demand attention and diligence in design. When you do that hard work, you are in fact addressing sociopolitical-economic inequalities. It is all of a piece."

-*Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach* (2002) by Jane Vella

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY WORKSHOP

OVERVIEW BRIDGES TRIPLE LENS

The Bridges work can be used at all levels: individual, institution, community, and policy. As you work with this material, try on each of these lenses. What is your favorite lens? Make sure to ask: "Now What?" Bridges gives you specific tools to work at each level. Bridges work is about detecting patterns. What patterns do you notice? Where are the exceptions?

MODULE 1: MENTAL MODELS OF ECONOMIC CLASS

We will explore the concrete experience of people in generational poverty. We will create mental models of poverty, the middle class, and wealth. We will look at the interlocking nature of the models and the demands of the environment.

MODULE 2: RESEARCH CONTINUUM

We will understand the causes of poverty in order to build resources. We will understand what is needed to build a sustainable community.

MODULE 3: KEY POINTS & BRIDGES CONSTRUCTS

In this module, we will establish key concepts that underlie the *Bridges Out of Poverty* framework.

MODULE 4: HIDDEN RULES

Each class has a set of hidden rules designed to let you know that you don't belong. Once you learn the hidden rules, you can feel comfortable engaging in all three economic class environments. You will be able to spot them in your interactions. Moving forward, you will be able to respond differently.

MODULE 5: LANGUAGES

There are different registers used by each economic class. What language register do you use at your agency? What register do your clients use? What about nonverbal communication? How are you communicating your agency's messages? Are they being received? We will learn how to become "bilingual."

MODULE 6: RESOURCES

To better understand people from poverty, the definition of poverty will be the "extent to which an individual does without research." There are eight resources. We will explore these resources, ways to nurture and build them.

MODULE 7: NOW WHAT? TOOLS

We will explore and practice voice and mediation techniques as tools for front-line staff members.