
LIVE UNITED

**A Multidimensional
Lens of Poverty**



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Mission

Mobilizing community resources to help people measurably improve their lives.



The Problem

**The current measure
(poverty line x200%) of
poverty used by United Way
of Wayne and Holmes
Counties does not capture
the whole picture**



Sophie's Story

- Single Mother with 2 kids
 - Youngest child is autistic
- High School Diploma
- Earns \$10/hour = \$20,800/year
- Unreliable Transportation
- Poor Health Insurance
- Diabetic
- Socially Excluded



Actionable Steps

1. Develop an alternative lens in which to view poverty



2. Provide informational indicators of poverty



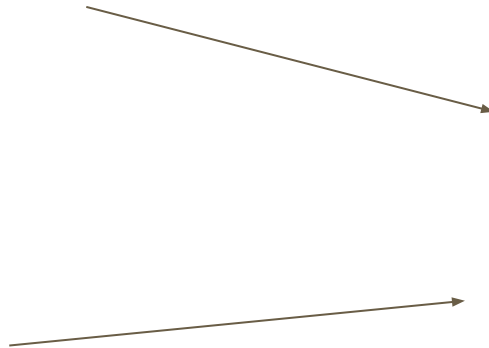
3. Evaluate indicators

Poverty: The Capabilities Approach

- Amartya Sen: poverty is a deprivation of capabilities to achieve functionings



Capabilities



**Achieved
Functionings**



Evidence from the Community

Income	Education	Health
lack of job training/skills (49x)	lack of education/undereducated (51x)	substance abuse/addiction (45x)
low/unlivable wages (33x)	literacy (3x)	mental health (38x)
under/unemployment (28x)	cost of education/higher education (3x)	physical disabilities/disease (9x)
lack of employer flexibility (1x)	time to invest in education (1x)	lack of health care (2x)
	access to education (1x)	unplanned pregnancies (1x)

Indicators

Income	Education	Health
200% Poverty Line	Kindergarten Readiness	Diabetes
Free and Reduced Lunch Rates	3rd Grade Literacy	Access to Mental Health Services
Unemployment	High School Graduation Rates	Health Insurance
		Drug Abuse

Social Inclusion

“Not to be able to mix with others **may directly impoverish a person’s life**, and additionally, **reduce economic opportunities** that come from social contact”

Social Inclusion
Lack of Support System (13x)
Lack of Childcare (7x)
Lack of Role Models/Available Mentors (5x)
Issues of Self-Worth (1x)

Social Inclusion Indicators

Social Inclusion
Number of People seen outside of work
Availability of Child Care Services
Number of Socio-Cultural Organizations involved in
Number of Mentors/Role Models in Life

Income	Education	Health	Social Inclusion
200% Poverty Line	Kindergarten Readiness	Diabetes	# of People seen outside of work
Free and Reduced Lunch Rates	3rd Grade Literacy	Access to Mental Health Services	Availability of Child Care Services
Unemployment	High School Graduation Rates	Health Insurance	# Socio-Cultural Organizations
		Drug Abuse	# Mentors/Role Models in Life

Lagging vs Leading Indicators

- **Lagging Indicators:** measured after an event has taken place
 - ex. 200% Poverty Line, 3rd grade literacy

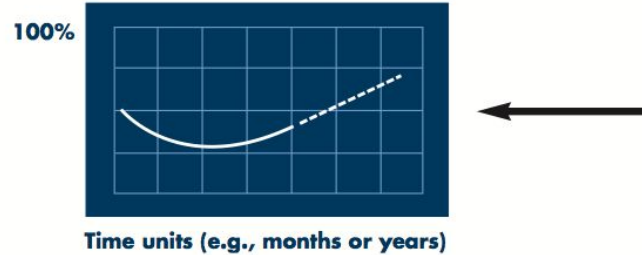
- **Leading Indicators:** indicators that signal future events
 - ex. number of mental health clinics, costs of health insurance

RBA

Results-Based Accountability™

Result and Indicator or Performance Measure

Data presented as a graph, with both an historic baseline and a forecast.



Story behind the curve

Key factors (positive and negative, internal and external) impacting progress (*i.e.*, impacting the curve of the baseline).

What we propose to do to improve progress

Feasible, high-impact actions/strategies with specific timelines and deliverables.
Partners with roles to play in improving progress.

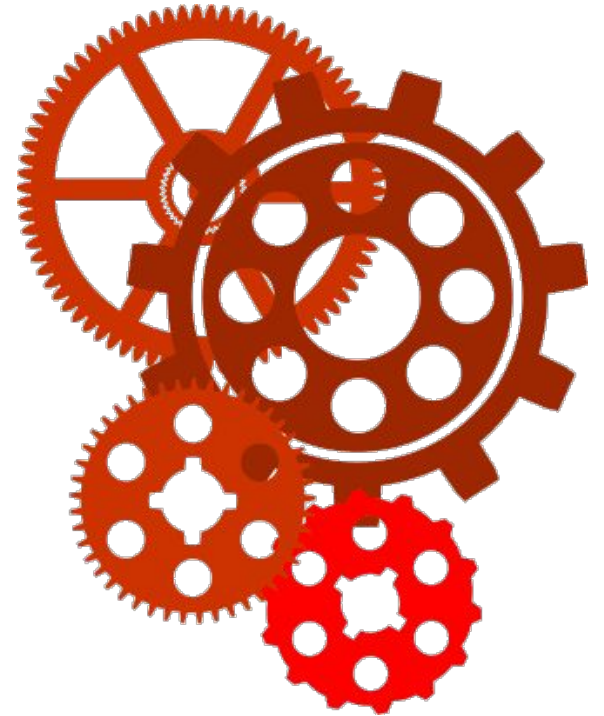
Monitor both implementation and the baseline for improvement and, as new data are obtained, repeat the process.

Further Evaluation

	Conventional Consultant	Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expertise in evaluationWell-tested approaches to evaluationNon-biased judgmentPrecision and Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integration of local knowledgeBuilds skills and relationships within communityCreates ownership and buy-inInvolve multiple stakeholders
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More expensiveLose local knowledgeTemporary Consultant/Potential for MiscommunicationLengthy Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Significant time & energy costsPotential conflict amongst stakeholdersLanguage barriers

Fit & Feasibility

- Aligns with UW mission
- Deprivation of capabilities will capture a more realistic account of individuals in poverty



Risks & Limitations

- Level of intensity of actual deprivations
- Additional deprivations
 - transportation?
- Informative vs evaluative indicators
- Community collaboration
- Partner organizations process change



Recommendations

moving forward

1. **Social Inclusion**
 2. **Community Participation**
 3. **Recurring Data Collection**
 4. **Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation**
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Thank You!

**Questions?
Comments?**