

Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM)

The mission of Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM) is to offer services to individuals to become self-sufficient by empowering them to obtain the resources needed to build strong families & communities.

CAPNCM envisions a world without poverty in which all people have access to necessary resources and are treated with dignity.

We offer the following services:

- Community Services
- Women's Health
- Housing Development (HUD)
- Missouri Workforce Assistance (MWA)
- Housing Assistance Program (Section 8)
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization



Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri

1506 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO 64683

Toll-Free Phone:
(855) 290-8544

Toll- Free Fax:
(844) 503-1872

www.capncm.org

Or contact:
Traci Fields

Community Organizer
Email- tfields@capncm.org

Poverty Simulations

Presented by
Community Action Partnership
of North Central Missouri



*A month in the life
of poverty...*

How do we get our neighbors, our leaders, and our communities to see how poverty feeds into the cycles of teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, or incarceration?

The Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM) wants to open people's eyes to the human cost of poverty.

A poverty simulation is a unique opportunity to help the community understand what life is like with a shortage of money & an abundance of stress. Many of the individuals and families in our nine county service area face poverty every day.

Using a simulation kit, participants role play in the lives of low-income families. Family scenarios are given out to groups who participate and each family is given time to seek services and support, obtain financial assistance, and simply decide how to spend what little money they have to survive.

*This project/program is funded in whole/or part with federal funds received from the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Community Services Block Grant as provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.

A month in the life...

Week 1:

The month has just begun 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 the baby"

Where do I go, what do I do?

Week 2:

Participants are realizing that it is frustrating to wait in line and not have enough money to pay bills.

"If I pay my utilities and rent do I purchase groceries or medication for my child?"

Where do I go, what do I do?

Week 3:

Participants that have not paid their mortgage will receive eviction notices.

"My child is skipping school and suddenly offers to help purchase groceries or pay bills."

Where do I go, what do I do?

Week 4:

Participants will have to get all of their bills paid and the family fed by the end of the week.

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

Where do I go, what do I do?

In the simulation, 40-85 participants will assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty.

Some families are newly unemployed, senior citizens receiving social security income only, or grandparents raising their grandchildren. The task of the "families" is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15 minute "weeks".

The simulation is conducted in a large room beginning with the families seated in groups in the center. Around the perimeter are tables representing community resources and services for the families. These services include; a bank, a grocery store, a Community Action Agency, an employer, utility company, pawn broker, DFS office, payday and title loan facility, daycare, and school.



For more information about poverty simulations or information on how to schedule one for your group, please contact Traci Fields ext. 1080