

Bridges Constructs

1. Use the lens of economic class to understand and take responsibility for your own societal experience while being open to the experiences of others.
2. At the intersections of poverty with other social disparities (racial, gender, physical ability, age, etc.), address inequalities in access to resources.
3. Define poverty as the extent to which a person, institution, or community does without resources.
4. Build relationships of mutual respect.
5. Base plans on the premise that people in all classes, sectors, and political persuasions are problem solvers and need to be at the decision-making table.
6. Base plans on accurate mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth.
7. At the individual, institutional, and community/policy levels: Stabilize the environment, remove barriers to transition, and build resources.
8. Address all causes of poverty (four areas of research).
9. Build long-term support for individual, institutional, and community/policy transition.
10. Build economically sustainable communities in which everyone can live well.