

Impact Poverty

A one year, in-depth study of poverty in Paducah-McCracken County.
The study resulted in a 10 year, community-wide action plan to help reduce our poverty rate.

Critical Care and Community Wellness

Assess critical needs and challenges that are not being met with current programs -- help those "falling through the cracks"; plan for a comprehensive wellness program to help those in need; create a plan to become a healthier community.

- Kentucky Cares brought to Paducah-McCracken County.
- Healthy Paducah formed. Secured a \$400,000 grant for the Rotary Health park.
- Purchase Area Health Connections formed.
- Between PAHC and Healthy Paducah, over 1.5 million in grants received since 2015 through HRSA and Foundation for Healthy Kentucky.

Substance Abuse

Focus community attention and resources on the drug problem plaguing our community and adversely impacting employability, the future of children/young adults, and families in poverty.

- McCracken County Agency for Substance Abuse and Policy formed.
- Approximately \$56,000 received for harm reduction and ASAP grants since 2016.

Support Systems

The Impact Poverty Task Force and Getting Ahead investigators have concluded that the vast majority of social service organizations working with those in poverty in Paducah-McCracken County are not successful in helping clients out of poverty. In fact, one of the unintended consequences of assistance is that it aids in keeping people in poverty.

- Use of Charity Tracker encouraged.
- United Way allocations process, communication with partner agencies, and the Independence Bank nonprofit coalition are all encouraged to strengthen nonprofit collaboration.
- Educational opportunities offered to clients of nonprofit agencies such as budgeting classes, nutrition classes, etc.

Kids and Education

Break the cycle of generational poverty by impacting children through education, mentoring, and exposure to opportunities.

- Reading PALS established with 24 students and mentors. The PALS program now has 150 students and mentors.
- McCracken County Early Childhood Council formed with \$22,000 in grants received annually.

Perceptions

Create a comprehensive community-wide program to change perceptions of the community and those in poverty. Adopt the Bridges Out of Poverty philosophy and implement Getting Ahead groups; make them go viral; reach a critical mass.

- Getting Ahead classes conducted.
- Bridges Out of Poverty offered quarterly.

Jobs

Create opportunities for those in poverty to obtain living wage employment through networking, barrier removal and coaching.

- An ongoing focus for our community.