



*Connecting People*

**Communication**  
Across Barriers

## *Poverty Competencies for Leaders*

### **FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS**



1. Knowing the history and structural causes of poverty to ensure you are operating from facts, not stereotypes.
2. Understanding the complexities of poverty and how many different life experiences are abeled "poverty."
3. Operating on the assumption that people in poverty are making the best decisions they can within the "shoes" they are wearing.
4. Creating relationships based on identification so that people in poverty who have never met someone who has benefited from education can see they are not so different from those who have. People in poverty can then find that education is possible.
5. Fostering a climate where everyone belongs, has knowledge and has opportunities to shine.
6. Developing and implementing curricula and programs that incorporate the life experiences of youth living in poverty.
7. Honoring Oral-Culture, relational styles of communicating and learning.
8. Educating people living in poverty about the middle-class, Print-Culture skills and norms needed to be successful in education and the work world.
9. Assisting people living in poverty to develop their "address books" or networks of support for accessing resources and opportunities.
10. Building internal and external partnerships to eradicate the impacts of poverty.



## NOW WHAT?

### *Dr. Beegle Recommends These Next Steps:*

- 1. Next-Level Professional Development Sessions:** Breaking poverty barriers requires ongoing learning. Dr. Beegle will work with you to identify target areas for growth and customize next-level trainings to meet those objectives.
- 2. Video Training and Book Reads:** See Poverty...Be the Difference and An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty assist participants in taking the learning to a deeper level. Action Approach comes with a two-hour, five-topic training DVD and companion Action Approach Guidebook for applying Dr. Beegle's concepts and seeing measurable results. Both are available at [www.combarriers.com](http://www.combarriers.com).
- 3. Send a Team To Attend the Beegle Poverty Institute:** The intensive two-day Poverty Institute provides a grounded understanding of poverty and concrete tools for breaking poverty barriers to success. The Poverty Institute is designed for professionals from the fields of justice, education, health and social service, as well as faith-based, business and community organization members.
- 4. Send a Team to Become Beegle Certified Poverty Coaches:** The intensive two-day Beegle Poverty Coaching Institute prepares participants for leading systemic change within their organizations. Participants gain skills for providing ongoing poverty competencies, teaching professional development workshops, conducting poverty competency assessments and developing measurable action plans for improving outcomes. Register at [www.combarriers.com](http://www.combarriers.com).
- 5. Partner With Our Team:** Host the Beegle Poverty Institute and Poverty Coaching Institute in your community. Contact Elia Moreno, national program director, at [elia@combarriers.com](mailto:elia@combarriers.com) for more information.
- 6. Become an Opportunity Community:** Dr. Beegle has researched best practices, nationally and internationally, that work to improve outcomes for children and families living in the crisis of poverty. Out of this research, Dr. Beegle developed the Opportunity Community (OC) model. The OC model is a community-wide approach that includes programs for students and families who currently live in poverty. The pillars of the model are to: 1) Remove the shame and judgment; 2) Rebuild the hope; 3) Reduce the isolation; and 4) Create a poverty- informed community that works together to improve outcomes. For more information, contact our national program director, Elia Moreno, at [elia@combarriers.com](mailto:elia@combarriers.com).
- 7. Bring a Communication Across Barriers Team Member in for a Poverty Competency Assessment (PCA):** Dr. Beegle developed the Poverty Competency Assessment and action planning tools to create more responsive systems. The PCA examines all aspects of the organization to identify areas that are meeting or exceeding desired outcomes and how to do more of what works. It illuminates areas for growth (where we keep doing what we have always done even though we are not achieving desired outcomes). The process identifies professional development levels of staff for addressing poverty barriers. It also captures the strengths of partnerships necessary for providing a comprehensive approach to removing poverty barriers. Programs, curricula, communication and teaching styles are also captured to ensure we are communicating and providing information in relevant, meaningful ways. The PCA results in a Poverty Competency Plan with measurable, doable actions. The Poverty Competency Plan can be incorporated into organizational strategic plans. For more information, contact our office at 503-590-4599.
- 8. Partner With CAB and Dr. Beegle to develop a custom training DVD and materials for your organization.**

*"Dr. Donna Beegle's poverty work and Poverty Coach Certification are the foundation of our new approach to serving students. These trainings have completely changed our understanding of who our students are and what they need from us. The Poverty and Coaching Institutes will be the best professional development investment in your employees and organization you could possibly experience. The interactive experience will change your hearts, challenge your minds and improve your impact, personally and organizationally."-*  
**Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart**  
President, Amarillo College

Contact Us For More Information: [www.combarriers.com](http://www.combarriers.com): (503)590-4599