

Poverty Information and Statistics

2014 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States from Health and Human Services:

- Household of 4: \$23,850/yr

Gregg County Poverty Levels:

- 28% of all children, living in Gregg County live below the poverty level.

Literacy Rate in Gregg County:

- 14% lack basic prose literacy skills

Educational Attainment in Gregg County:

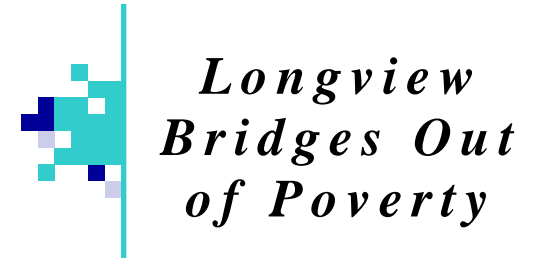
- 7.2% of the population 25 years and over attained less than a 9th grade education



INSPIRE, CONNECT, AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT TRANSFORM LIVES

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Longview Bridges Out of Poverty
is funded in part by:



Longview Bridges is designed to build relationships across class and race lines while drawing on individual experiences to help better address the concern of individual economic instability in our community.

Longview Bridges provides a way for all sectors of the community to come together with the common goal of building sustainable communities.



LONGVIEW BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Bridges Out of Poverty is a community construct to address the issue and concern of poverty. The book, “Bridges Out of Poverty”, by Ruby Payne, Ph.D., Phil DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith, is the basis for the model used by Partners in Prevention.

The model is designed to engage all sectors of the community in addressing the barriers that keep people in poverty, identifying resources, and understanding the impact poverty has on a community and its residents.

Longview Bridges Out of Poverty is designed to:

- Reach out to those who are struggling, but are motivated to reach self-sufficiency and move themselves forward by attending an 18-session, co-investigative class called, “**Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ by World.**”
- **Longview Bridges Out of Poverty Steering Committee**, which is made up of representation through the community to network and raise awareness about local poverty issues.
- **Community training** in the Bridges Out of Poverty model and Poverty Simulations

Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ by World

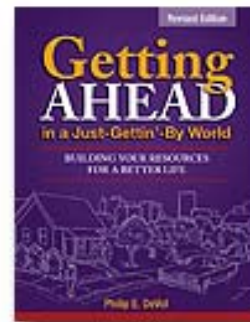
Getting Ahead are weekly sessions for low-income individuals striving to reach self-sufficiency. There is no charge to participate in the Getting Ahead sessions. Childcare is provided, as well as a meal at each weekly session.

Getting Ahead is:

- A weekly commitment (18 weeks)
- A new way of looking at an old situation
- Supportive and encouraging
- Confidential
- Hope for a better tomorrow

Getting Ahead is not:

- A quick fix—it takes time
- A typical class— we co-investigate and learn from one another



Sessions begin twice per year.
Call 903.237.1019 for more
information or to register.

Longview Bridges Out of Poverty Steering Committee

Anyone with an interest in reducing poverty in the Longview area is encouraged to join the Bridges Out of Poverty Steering Committee. Comprised of members from the faith community, nonprofit organizations, city government, higher education, those living in poverty, health care, mental health professionals, and others, the Bridge Steering Committee seeks to find the “bright spots” - those things that are working—to build upon, while also identifying gaps of service that might need to be addressed to help “move the needle” of lowering the poverty rate. The idea behind Bridges is that “no one owns it, everyone owns it” - meaning it is truly a joint community collaboration.



Training

Partners in Prevention offers poverty awareness training.

- **Bridges Out of Poverty** training can be presented in a 2-hour session or an all day session.
- **Poverty Simulation** is a two-hour role-playing training and processing tool that engages participants in solving day-to-day problems often faced by people living in poverty. A simulation can be conducted a group as small as 35, up to 65.