

West Side Revive Demonstration Project  
Essential Component of a Strategy to End Child and Family Poverty on the  
West Side of Charleston

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Our Children, Our Future – the movement to end child poverty on the West Side of Charleston must have the following components to be effective.

1. It must target low income families with dependent children ages 0 to 21 years old.

**Rationale:** Strengthening families with dependent children both directly and indirectly helps the children by building family resiliency which builds resilience in the children.

2. It must have a special strategy to promote job training and employment for parents of poor children.

**Rationale:** Poor children are dependent on their parents to lift them out of poverty while they are children.

3. It must have a specific strategy to reduce teen pregnancy and out of wedlock teen births.

**Rationale:** Out of wedlock teen births is a major contributor to child poverty.

4. It must have a specific strategy to promote job training and employment for non-custodial parents, normally fathers, so that they can make their child support payments.

**Rationale:** The poorest children are children of single mothers and the mothers often do not have child support from the fathers.

5. It must have a specific strategy to promote job training and employment for 16 – 24 year old “disconnected” out of school unemployed youth.

**Rationale:** According to Kids Count, there are over 56,000 teens and young adults in West Virginia who are not in school and jobless, veering toward a path of chronic unemployment as adults. Over 20% (11,200) of this population are already parents. This group is most likely to be parents of poor children.

6. It must have a specific strategy that promotes early childhood development from pre-natal to pre kindergarten.

**Rationale:** We now know how critical the pre-natal and early years are to a child’s brain development and future learning capacity.

## Strategy to End Child Poverty in West Virginia

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7. It must have a specific strategy that promotes successful early education from K-5 with the goal of every child reading at grade level by the end of the third grade.

**Rationale:** We know that children learn to read from P-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. They, then, read to learn from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and for the rest of their lives. We also know that if children are not reading on grade level by the end of the fifth grade, the chances of them catching up are slim.

8. It must have a specific strategy that promotes successful education for youth in middle school, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Rationale:** We know that the middle school years are particularly critical for youth as they enter those adolescent pre-teen and early teen years. Peer pressure becomes stronger during these years and youth are more likely to be exposed to drugs, tobacco and alcohol and pre-marital sex.

9. It must have a specific strategy that promotes high school graduation for 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Rationale:** Research shows that youth that drop-out of high school are more likely to end up in poverty than those youth who finished high school.

10. It must have a specific strategy that promotes directing low-income high school graduates in the appropriate post-secondary job training or education program.

**Rationale:** To obtain employment that pays a livable wage, young adults will need job training or education beyond a high school diploma.

### *Statistics for Ending Child Poverty*

Children Ages	Add	Children Ages	Add	Children Ages	Add	Children Ages	Add	Children Ages
0 - 4	5 yrs.	5 - 9	5 yrs.	10 - 14	5yrs.	15 - 19	5yrs.	21 - 24
5 - 9	5yrs.	10 - 14	5 yrs.	15 - 19	5 yrs.	20 - 21	5 yrs.	25 - 29
10 - 14	5 yrs.	15 -19	5 yrs.	20 - 24	5 yrs.	25 - 29	5 yrs.	30 -34
15 - 19	5 yrs.	20 - 24	5 yrs.	25 - 29	5 yrs.	30 - 34	5 yrs.	35 - 39
20 - 24	5 yrs.	25 - 29	5 yrs.	30 - 34	5 yrs.	35 - 39	5 yrs.	40 - 44
25 - 29	5 yrs.	30 - 34	5 yrs.	35 - 39	5 yrs.	40 -44	5 yrs.	45 -49
30 - 34	5 yrs.	35 - 39	5 yrs.	40 - 44	5 yrs.	45 - 49	5 yrs.	50 - 55
35 - 39	5 yrs	40 -44	5 yrs.	45 - 49	5 yrs.	50 -54	5 yrs.	56 - 60