



# HAMPDEN COUNTY WORKFORCE BOARD

1441 Main St, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413.787.1547

**Re: Community Action Poverty Simulation hosted by the Pioneer Valley Interprofessional Education Collaborative (PV-IPEC)**

May 19, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

We are requesting the help of community partners/members to create an effective simulation experience for healthcare practitioners and educators in a poverty simulation. The program is a professional development training for healthcare personnel, aided by the support of community members, and hosted by the Pioneer Valley Interprofessional Education Collaborative (PV-IPEC).

Hundreds of health professions students have participated in the poverty simulation and it has been proven to improve the way they care for and interact with patients, which is the goal of the simulation. But as students are learning how to think about the social determinants of health, educators also realize that they are teaching concepts without first-hand experiences.

This program helps to bridge this gap. The Community Action Poverty Simulation is a tool, developed by the Missouri Community Action Network, to expose participants to challenges that millions of low income Americans must face each and every day. The toolkit was developed to shift the paradigm about poverty away from being seen as a personal failure and toward the understanding of poverty as structural by providing participants with a simulated experience of four weeks living in poverty. **As a community member, or resources and services provider, your attendance and participation in this simulated experience is critical to the success of the program. The simulation participants do not have the lived experience or the awareness of community resources, and the procedures and requirements necessary to access available resources. Your experience as a community member or working with community members will bring a real world element to the simulation.**

Please register to join us on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 1:30 – 5:00PM** at **Western New England University**. In appreciation of your attendance, a \$50.00 gift card will be provided to you. When registering, you will have the option to select a preferred role. Roles include: banker/loan collector, quik cash (currency exchange) worker, community action agency staff, supercenter clerk, mortgage/rent collector, social service office receptionist, utility collector, and others.

The program agenda is as follows:

Poverty Simulation Agenda  
01:30 PM - 02:00 PM    Volunteers' Orientation

02:15 PM - 02:20 PM	Participant Registration & Briefing
02:20 PM - 04:00 PM	Simulation
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Program Debrief and Dinner

Please use click on the link to register:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfy2EHkcc3OnnCGdYgDgAllQIMLx2yVuEeJDZaolyaE44Jm1Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfy2EHkcc3OnnCGdYgDgAllQIMLx2yVuEeJDZaolyaE44Jm1Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Sincerely,

*Peta-Gaye Johnson*

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