



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER  
SURVEY RESULTS  
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

June, 2007

# Duluth Blueprint to End Poverty Fellowship Program Participants

Jessica Anderson  
William Brasted  
Kendra Carlson  
Ashley Dyson  
Vannie Hayden  
Leah Hendrickson  
Sherry Kanatzer  
Justin Lenz  
Gretchen Nickance  
Kasey Phifer  
Ernesto Rivas  
Thunderhawk Warrior  
Jataun Wheeler  
Rosalie White

*The Duluth Blueprint to End Poverty would like to thank the above individuals for their contribution with this survey and for their participation in the community-engagement meetings held throughout the City of Duluth.*

**Background**

Responses to 115 Community Stakeholder Surveys were gathered through oral interviews conducted by 14 members of the **Duluth Blueprint Fellowship Program** between April 1 and June 8, 2007. Survey interviews were conducted throughout the community of Duluth.

**Survey Instrument**

Interviewers used an 8-Questions survey (see below) that took approximately 15 minutes to administer.

.....

**Duluth’s Blueprint to End Poverty**

**STAKEHOLDER SURVEY**

- 1. Do you live in the city limits of Duluth?    \_\_\_\_\_ yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No
- 2. What neighborhood do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Lakeside, Lester Park, Central Hillside, East Hillside, Lincoln Park, West Duluth, Morgan Park etc)
  - Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Which of the following statements **best** describes your current household situation? Why?    *(Circle One)*
  - a. I am not able to meet basic needs    *(person is in poverty)*
  - b. I am able to meet basic needs    *(has moved out of poverty)*
  - c. I am at risk of falling into poverty

Why?

- 4. In Duluth, what IS currently working to help you stay out of poverty and meet your basic needs? *(capture word-for-word statements if possible)*

5. In Duluth, what IS NOT currently working to help you stay out of poverty and meet your basic needs? *(capture word-for-word statements if possible)*

6. What would have to be in place (programs, resources, information) for you or other people you know to move out of poverty? *(Depending on the response to Q#3 you will need to rephrase – “What worked in helping you transition out of poverty” or “What is needed to help you move out of poverty”)*

7. A group of concerned community members is working on plans to end poverty. What do you recommend that they focus on? What should they avoid?

What to Focus On	What to Avoid

8. What is the #1 financial problem in your life at this moment?

## Overview of the Survey Results

The 115 Stakeholder Survey respondents can be described as follows:

### Who was interviewed?

Men 49  
Women 66

### Age of Respondents?

Average Age: 38 years

### By Age Category

18 – 29 - 45  
31- 49 - 43  
50+ -25

### Ethnicity

Caucasian 50 (43%)  
American Indian 33 (29%)  
Black or African American 15 (13%)  
Latino/Latina 2 (1.7%)  
Asian 1 (.008%)  
Bi-racial 2 (1.7%)  
NA or not-specified 12 (10.4%)

### Where do respondents live?

EAST	CENTRAL	WEST
Lakeside - 5 (4%)	Central Hillside - 30 (26%)	Linclon Park - 8 (7%)
Lester Park - 1	East Hillside - 30 (26%)	West Duluth - 9 (8%)
Woodland - 2	Downtown - 3	Morgan Park - 4 (3%)
Lakewood - 1	Park Point - 1	Piedmont - 1
	Duluth Heights - 3	Riverside - 2
	Harbor Highlands - 1	Spirit Valley - 2
	Observation Hill - 1	Gary New Duluth -3
<i>Homeless - 2</i>		Freemont - 1
<i>No Response - 3</i>		

## Summary of Key Findings

Although information was collected on 8 survey questions, there were multiple variables to consider depending on the responses to particular items (i.e. Question 3) that make it challenging to interpret. For the purposes of this “preliminary report” responses to the following questions will be examined:

### What is currently working to help you stay out of poverty?

- **Human service support system** - 35% of responses indicated that “system” support (i.e. food stamps, Housing Authority, General Assistance, my financial worker etc) contributed to staying out of poverty
- **Employment** - 27% of respondents identified having part-time employment, operating a small business, having a good employer or taking “under the table” jobs as factors in their preventing/staying out of poverty.
- **Personal support** - 11% identified their family, friends or a mentor
- **personal strength** – 11% indicated their personal work ethic, health and ability to budget as strengths in staying or moving to self sufficiency
- **Assistance with meeting basic needs** - 11% indicated that access to the food shelf, soup kitchen or Damiano Clothes that Work allowed them to not slip into poverty
- **Housing, transportation and advocacy/support** – 5% identified these services as useful in avoiding poverty. .

### What is NOT working to help you stay out of poverty?

235 responses were offered to this question with over 100 being single responses. The key issue areas generating multiple responses by those surveyed include:

- **Low wages** (21 respondents)
- **Housing costs** too high (mentioned on 16 survey forms)
- **Lack of jobs** (11 respondents)
- **Criminal history, high cost of living and lack of education** (7 responses in each category) were identified as detriments to moving toward self sufficiency.
- **Housing availability, inadequacy of food stamps, insufficient general assistance and access to dental care and transportation** (4-5 per category) completed the list of most frequent responses to the question.

### **What would have to be in place for you to move out of poverty?**

Here again, survey respondents were prolific in the number of responses (207) they offered to this question. Responses with multiple agreements include:

- More affordable housing/rent (21 respondents agree)
- More job opportunities (13)
- higher wages/living wage (12)
- More responsive human service delivery system (8)
- Better job training (7)
- Improved eligibility requirements for services (6)
- Improved overall HUD public housing system (6)
- Improved health care system (6)
- Transportation (5)
- Improved system of ex-offender services (5)

### **What areas of focus would you recommend for ending poverty in Duluth?**

- Make the cost of rental housing more affordable (26 responses)
- Improve healthcare access and reduce health care costs and co-pays (16 responses)
- Improved educational opportunities (11)
- Increased job availability (11)
- Job training/education leading to better paying jobs (7)
- Living wages (6)
- Improved and more affordable transportation services (5)
- Revamp welfare eligibility guidelines for receiving benefits (5)
- Assist ex-offenders with improved employment and housing services (4)

### **What is the #1 financial challenge for 115 people interviewed in the Stakeholder Survey?**

- Overall lack of income (20)
- Health care (19)
- Housing/Rent (18)
- inability to pay bills (10)
- inability to meet basic needs (food, clothing, housing and utilities) (10)