

# Five Resources for Family Engagement: Supporting Families in Poverty

Engaging families to support student learning is an important role for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). Many of the students in our programs come from poverty. Programs can use these five free resources to better understand issues that families in poverty face.

- 1. National Public Radio, Special Series Poverty in America: the struggle to get ahead** This series is hosted by NPR's, Pam Fessler who reports on the tens of millions of Americans still struggling in poverty. <http://www.npr.org/series/155932539/poverty-in-america>  
*This series includes videos and audios of the following topics:*
  - Struggling Families Lift Themselves Out of Poverty
  - To Beat Odds, Poor Single Moms Need Wide Safety Net
  - Single Mothers and the Cycle of Poverty
  - Poverty in the U.S, By the Numbers
  - Cycle of Poverty Hard to Break in Poorest U.S. City
- 2. 10 Important Questions about Child Poverty Family Economic Hardship.** National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University. Authors: Nancy K Cauthen, Ph.D. and Sarah Fass, May 2008. This article focuses on the nature of poverty and economic hardship in the United States. [http://www.nccp.org/pages/pdf/page\\_131.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/pages/pdf/page_131.pdf)
- 3. Family Resources Practices for Families Living in Poverty.** The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues, North Carolina State University, Volume 10, No.1. May 2005. Authors Trudy W Smith and Karen DeBord, Ph.D. examine family resources management practices that support educators knowledge and understanding of the support systems within the community systems that surround families living in poverty. <http://ncsu.edu/ffci/publications/2005/v10-n1-2005-may/fa-1-family.php>
- 4. The Effects of Poverty on Relationships, Challenge: Relationships with and Involvement of Parents and Families.** This article on Teachnology.com seeks to help staff and teachers understand the dynamics of parenting in the context of poverty. This article provides guidance for staff to better understand families' situations. <http://www.teach-nology.com/tutorials/teaching/poverty/2/>
- 5. Educational Leadership: Poverty and Learning: Nine Powerful Practices.** April 2008, Volume 65, Number 7, Poverty and Learning, Pages 48-52. Author Ruby Payne presents nine strategies help raise the achievement of students living in poverty. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/apr08/vol65/num07/Nine-Powerful-Practices.aspx>