

A companion training resource to  
Walking in “their” Shoes Poverty  
Simulation ([WITS](#))

# POVERTY RACE CLASS & CULTURE

Understanding how *misperceptions*  
about race, class & culture perpetuate  
poverty in America

Poverty Race Class & Culture is practitioner training designed to unpack the effects of race, class and cultural bias on all people, and in particular, racial and ethnic minorities in poverty in low-income communities. It addresses how these biases work to perpetuate poverty; and how they hinder the development true understanding and authentic relationship between people of different races, ethnicity and economic backgrounds in America.

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**ANSWER**  
POVERTY .ORG

Upon completion participants will:

- Understand how misperceptions poverty perpetuate it in American society
- Understand the personal issues/concerns that keep people mired in poverty
- Understand some of the cultural values and institutional structures work to perpetuate poverty in America
- Understand how to develop programs and services that work to break the cycle of generational poverty and interrupt the impacts poverty has on all people in American society

**Class Options:**

**In-Person**

- **Lunch & Learn** (3.5 Hours)

**Online** (*asynchronous learning*)

**Professional Development**

- **(6) Weeks** (14 Hours Class & Homework Time)

**Format:**

Lecture, Small Group Discussion, Homework, and Learning Application Assignment





**Robert L. Caldwell**  
**Executive Director / Lead Trainer**

### Professional Achievements

A Columbus, Ohio native, Robert L. Caldwell, Jr. has been a practitioner and thought leader in the area of urban poverty for more than thirty years. He is the founder or co-founder of several different social service initiatives including; P.A.S. Program (Positive Alternative to Suspension), in cooperation with the Columbus Public Schools, to provide academic remediation and social service intervention for students serving out of school suspension. P.A.S. won a merit award from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce in 1995. In 1991 he helped develop the R.O.W.T.E.A.M.S. Program (*Residents Off Welfare Teaching Educating Achieving Motivating Success*), which in 1997 won the Governor's Award (Voinovich) for Excellence in Public Service in the State of Ohio. Robert also served as the Managing Director of the YWCA Family Center, an emergency homeless family shelter offering an array of support to homeless families. During his tenure, the shelter served over 1500 families and received national recognition from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.



### Community Service Achievements

Robert served the center city community where he and his family lived as the founder and past President of the Weinland Park Community Civic Association, a coalition of residents, social service and community organizations and city officials working to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Weinland Park Community; as an Area Commissioner representing Weinland Park on the University Area Commission (a community extension of the Columbus City Council) and as a member of the Board of Directors of Columbus Compact Corporation, the federally designated administrator of Columbus Ohio's Empowerment Zones, charged with the revitalization of Columbus' center city neighborhoods. He served as an advisor to the then Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, and served on the Mayor's (Coleman) 2012 Bicentennial Commission as Safety Committee Co-Chair; and as a Senior Fellow for the Mission Columbus Institute for Community Initiatives, a faith-based, community organization working to facilitate collaborative efforts between faith and community-based organizations. **In 2016**, Robert received a [Distinguished Service Award from The Ohio State University](#) for his work in the Weinland Park Community.

### Collaborative Leadership Achievements

**The Weinland Park Neighborhood Plan** – worked with the Columbus Development Department, community residents and stakeholders as the Committee Chair to develop a comprehensive economic development plan impacting over 100,000 residents, students and employees living and working in the Weinland Park and South Campus Area.

**The Schoenbaum Family Center Development** – worked with Columbus Public Schools and The Ohio State College of Education & Human Ecology to facilitate resident and stakeholder involvement in the design and development of a State-of-the-Art community-based child & family development center.