POVERTY IN BUFFALO, N.Y.
Poverty Levels: How Does the Census Bureau Determine?
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Myth: Living on Public Assistance

Those receiving public assistance live well and, therefore, do not want to work preferring instead to collect government benefits.

VLP Family Court Help Desk

- VLP Mission: to provide quality, free civil legal services for low income people and smaller not-for-profit groups; and to effectively involve volunteers in the delivery of those services.
- The Help Desk is staffed with one attorney and one paralegal.
- At the Help Desk, we welcome clients from all walks of life. They may have heard of the VLP from someone or referred to us by the court clerk.
- I meet with the client explain the program, complete the retainer, and financial forms. Next, I begin the interview process to obtain pertinent information in order to assess their legal concern in preparation to meet with the attorney.
- Most of our clients are well below the poverty line. The VLP provides professional and confidential consultation with the client regarding their legal issue with the goal of the client leaving educated in their next course of action.
- We have helped clients from both Buffalo and Niagara Counties at the Niagara County Family Court in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

United States Census Bureau

- The official source of statistical data tracking the national economy.
- Follows the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Statistical Policy’s, Directive 14. The largest office within the Executive Office of the U.S. President. Title 13 and 26 U.S. Code
- The poverty level determined by using money income before taxes that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the family’s total income is less than the family threshold then that family and each individual is considered to be in poverty.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING AND COMBATING POVERTY

- **FINANCIAL EDUCATION**
  - Basic Budgeting
  - Cost Associated with relying on pay day loans, rent-to-own stores, pawn shops, check cashing establishments, money orders.
- **TRANSPORTATION**
  - Unable to afford and maintain a vehicle.
  - Rising transportation cost.
- **JOB OPPORTUNITY**
  - Opportunities are usually limited to the fast food industry and retail stores providing income usually at minimum wage and make up the job market in the area.
- **EDUCATION**
  - Advocating completion of high school and/or G.E.D
  - Higher Education Opportunities, trade school, Military
- **HOUSING**
  - Comprised area of living based on affordability. Poor and/or run down area
- **HEALTH CARE**
  - Little or none
  - Lack of health care contribute to untreated medical conditions, treatable disease, health related issues.

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GET INVOLVED

- Partnership for Public Good (PPG)
- Homeless Alliance of Western New York
  - United Way Buffalo & Erie
- Community Foundation for a Greater Buffalo
- Community Action Organization (CAO)
  - Buffalo City Mission