



## “More than Income: Defining and Measuring Poverty in New York City”

At the start of the forum, we asked participants to answer at least one of the following questions:

1. How do you think about poverty?
2. How are you working to dismantle poverty; and/or
3. Why did you want to be here with us this morning?

Some participants chose to answer one, while other answered all of them. We have chosen some quotes to give you a sense of the range of perspectives, opinions, and ideas.

Read on to learn how others in New York City think about poverty and what they are doing about it.

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“Poverty = limits, walls – lack of money to buy things  
lack of hope  
lack of belonging to society that votes  
lack of free energy for culture  
lack of education: perspective about the full global world”

“Poverty is not always about money.”

“Poverty is systemic and impacts everyone in a community whether privileged or poor.”

“It [poverty] is deeply entrenched and multi-faceted. It is systemic, biased and places a great burden on those who suffer under it.”

“Poverty is a serious threat to democracy.”

“I see it [poverty] in terms of health, education and economic deprivation and social isolation and lack of opportunity.”

“I want to make poverty visible and unapologetic. Force the rest of the society to stop ignoring the reality, even if it makes them uncomfortable.”

“While poverty affects individuals, I believe it strikes at the core of society as a whole – it is a thread that runs through nearly every social issue.”

“It’s a system – as Ellen Schall spoke about – that benefits some while oppressing others. It is fueled by a false sense of fear and competition. To fight poverty we need to attack/change the paradigm most people act from. That through collaboration and collective effort we *all* can benefit. My work in education, I hope, works to dismantle the perception of poverty with young people.”



(In response to Q#2): “To end patterns in my own life and family while learning the larger issues that pertain to what I would ultimately want to study and work on in non-profits that are progressive and committed.”

(In response to Q#2 and Q #3): “Building and bringing together more women to build and fight for systemic change in their community one day at a time.”

“Poverty will always be with us, but each member of a civilized society has an obligation to alleviate it in some active way. The best way to attack poverty is to educate girls locally and around the world.”

(In response to Q#3):

“To share hope

To share visions

To share real solutions

Our next step should be to take the best of what we know works, and give ourselves a timeline to put words into actions.”