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**2017 SDC Summit on Poverty to
to Identify Actionable Objectives to Address Poverty Epidemic
Event Expands to Two Days – September 6 – 7**

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – July 10, 2017 – Consider these sobering statistics:

- **Milwaukee is the third poorest city ranked nationally behind Detroit with a poverty rate of 26.8%.**
- **With 39.2% of children under age 18 living in poverty, Milwaukee ranked fourth of the largest U.S. cities for childhood poverty.**
- **Statewide in Wisconsin, 16.4% of children live in poverty.”**

**Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
September 14, 2016**

Poverty is an epidemic in our community. However, not enough is being done about it. In fact, obstacles to survive in poverty continue to grow.

The Social Development Commission's 2017 Summit on Poverty - *Dismantling Systems of Poverty* has expanded to two days – Wednesday, September 6 and Thursday, September 7. The Summit will bring together private and public sectors, academia, community and faith-based organizations as well as low-income residents.

This year's Summit will dig deeper into issues and outcomes identified of the 2016 breakout sessions. Together, participants will work with session moderators, to recommend specific goals for the entire community to address. At the end of the Summit, two to three action goals will be determined

2016 Focal Points

- **The Isms** – Assessment of racism, sexism, classism, etc. – the Isms that exist in our community and development of a recommend approach to address it effectively. A portion of the session will include a facilitated training by Summit coalition partners from the ACLU and YWCA Southeast Wisconsin.

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- **Policies and Systems** – Examine biases, inequities, discussion of systemic abuses, and assess the political will to change policies that create an exclusive society versus an inclusive one, providing opportunities to all that seek them. Examples of models from across the nation of intentional collaboration between communities, government and businesses that produce effective results will be presented. Challenges will be illustrated as well as the exploration of opportunities.
- **Trauma** – An informed paper collaborated on by community leaders will be shared for consideration by attendees. Following a courageous conversation regarding the trauma that exists in our community, an informed presentation will offer recommendations to address it in an effective manner on a long-term basis.
- **Cognitive Dissonance** – This session will focus on understanding the importance of awareness of possible conscious or unconscious perceptions and bias that could have unintended consequences for low-income people, service providers, policymakers and the community.

The Summit, September 6 – 7, from 8:30 PM – 3:30 PM each day, will be held at the Italian Community Center, 631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee.

Registration for the Summit on Poverty is available on SDC's website at cr-sdc.org by clicking the banner or feature box on the home page, or by selecting the event in the navigation at the top of the page. The event is free and open to the public.

[Sponsorships](#) are available to support this critical, free event. [Donations](#) of any amount are also encouraged.

For more than 50 years, the Social Development Commission has operated as the Community Action Agency for Milwaukee County. SDC serves as a planner, coordinator, and provider of human service programs for low-income individuals and families residing in Milwaukee County. The agency is an intergovernmental commission and is governed by a board of 18 citizens from Milwaukee County, each of whom holds the title of "Commissioner." For more information on SDC's programs and services, visit cr-sdc.org. Connect with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SDCMilwaukee and Twitter www.twitter.com/CRSDC.

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