



COAAA Professional Education

October 30, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

\$15

Examining Our Poverty Competence: A Necessary but Ignored Ingredient for Effective Service

The recent pandemic as well as other global and local events remind us of the fragility of our economic status. Currently, about 12% of the U.S. population live in poverty. This means that about 38 million people do not have enough income to meet their basic needs and often have to make tough choices such as whether to eat or to pay for medication. The impact of poverty is real and daunting. At the same time, the stereotypes that we hold of the causes of poverty and the people in poverty can affect how we respond to people in need. This has serious implications as poverty can compound the lived experiences of those living at the margins of race, gender, sexual orientation, and other marginalized status. Awareness therefore of our poverty competence is critical for providing effective social services to all individuals, including those who are vulnerable because of their age. This proposed workshop seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of social service workers by highlighting the realities of poverty, addressing the stigma, and providing strategies to enhance our poverty competence.

Presenter:

Dr. Constance-Huggins is a Professor and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Social Work at Winthrop University. She received her PhD, MSW, and MPIA from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a poverty and critical race social work scholar, who has devoted her academic life researching topics pertaining to poverty and race such as racial disparities, oppression, and ideologies. Her other areas of research include social capital among women and community needs assessment. Dr. Constance-Huggins has also spent many years providing professional training to organizations. She also provides policy analysis to developing island state. Dr. Huggins' work brings together empirical studies, theory, and social policy to improve individuals, organizations, and communities. Dr. Constance-Huggins teaches courses in research methods, social welfare policy, community practice, and working with multicultural populations.

Objectives:

Upon the completion of this workshop participants will:

- Describe the nature and extent of poverty in the U.S.
 - Describe the intersection of poverty with other marginalized identities based on age, disability, gender, race among others
 - Articulate the dimensions of poverty competence and ways to enhance them
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Continuing Education Units 3.0 Social Work Clock Hours (#RSX059002) 3.0 Counselor Clock Hour(#RCX109207)
Family Therapist (#RTX072507)

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Virtual

Registration Form

Deadline: Oct 23

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please email registration form to training@coaaa.org

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Special accommodations needed due to disability:

Phone (_____) _____

Email: _____

***COAAA workshops are now \$30 per session for external participants and free for internal participants. Please scan the QR Code below to submit your payment online. ***

☐ Social Worker ☐ Nurse ☐ Other _____

(please email registration form to training@coaaa.org)

Questions? Call (614) 645-7250 or 1-800-589-7277. COAAA cannot accept registrations over the phone.

****If no confirmation received within 5 business days, please contact the office****



Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

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Your Aging and Disability Resource Network