

IS IT POSSIBLE TO END POVERTY?

Many people in our country would answer this question with a resounding “No.” We have been conditioned to believe poverty is an unavoidable societal problem. What if that were not true? What if we have normalized an abusive condition we can actually solve? The progress Circles USA has shown so far in 2016 indicates we are making steps toward meeting our goals.



2016 IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY

STRATEGY #1: Bring Circles to 10% of all counties and major cities

That's 300 of the 3,007 U.S. counties and 30 of the 297 cities with populations of 100,000 or more by 2026.

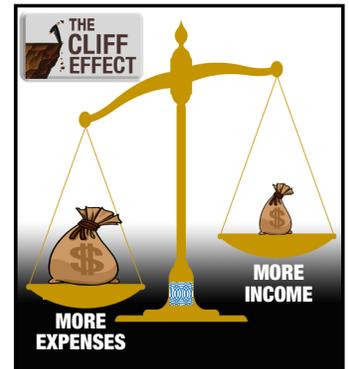
| Enrolled in Circles | 1/1/16 | 6/1/16 | Goal | % Of Goal |
|---------------------|--------|--------|------|-----------|
| Counties | 56 | 58 | 300 | 19% |
| Cities | 12 | 13 | 30 | 43% |

STRATEGY #2: Gain commitment from communities to reduce poverty by 10%

- Circles USA has enrolled community champions in 46 counties from 17 states to join us in developing plans to reduce poverty by 10% within 10 years.
- The Fremont Area Community Foundation (in Michigan) hired Circles USA to help develop plans that could reduce poverty in their county by at least 10% within the next decade.
- Circles USA supported two chapters in securing initial scaling funds: Circles Utah Valley Chapter and Circles Greater Pittsburgh.

STRATEGY #3: Contribute to mitigate the impact of the Cliff Effect

We now have a Cliff Effect Planning Tool that can estimate reductions in Medicaid, childcare, housing, food stamps, and cash assistance as someone earns more income. The planner provides people with a forecast of estimated lost benefits so they can work within their Circles to find alternatives.



STRATEGY #4: Support families to earn 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Circles USA rolled out its data system earlier this year and hired a full-time system analyst to provide training and technical assistance to our chapters on how to properly use it. We now have data on 3,600 adults and children from 1,236 Circle Leaders' households. We have provided coaching and webinars to chapters to complete their data input and produce local reports.

EARNED INCOME

The primary indicator of progress in Circles is an increase in earned income. Circle Leaders earned:

- 37% more income after six months;
- 50% more after one year;
- 62% more in 18 months.

