Handout 2E: Racial Injustice and Poverty

Directions: Review the following material. On a separate piece of butcher paper, use pictures, symbols, drawings and the information presented on this handout to describe how racial injustice is connected to poverty.

The largest group of persons living in poverty today are non-Hispanic white persons – over 18.9 million Americans. These men, women and children make up 9.7% of the total white population.

By comparison, minority groups are three times as likely to live in poverty. For instance, the poverty rate among African Americans was 27.2% in 2012. That’s more than one out of every four African Americans living in poverty. For Hispanics, the poverty rate was 25.6% in 2012. For Asian Americans, the poverty rate was 11.7%.

While poverty affects people across racial lines, a disproportionate percentage of those in poverty are people of color. Segregation, discrimination and other racial injustices that continue to exist may help to explain why this is true.