

Anti-poverty initiative forms steering committee

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Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative has formed a steering committee to oversee the initiative's efforts to develop a comprehensive approach to eliminating poverty in Monroe County.

The 19-member committee will include local health and human services, academia, business, government and labor leaders, including Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, Rochester Business Alliance Inc. CEO Robert Duffy, Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle and Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren.

"Today we are taking the next critical steps toward implementing a community-driven plan that will confront head-on the specific challenges facing those living in poverty," Morelle said.

The organization (<http://www.uwrochester.org/RochesterAnti-PovertyInitiative.aspx>) plans to form workgroups that will focus on jobs, education and workforce training, housing, health and nutrition, safe neighborhoods, policy and system redesign.

"It's time to reduce the rates of poverty in our city by providing access to more jobs, safer neighborhoods, and better schools," Warren said. "The individuals who make up the steering committee are some of the most dedicated and caring people in our city. With this group of hearts and minds coming together we can start to take innovative approaches to the age-old problem in our city, and truly begin to sem the tide."

The members on the steering committee are,

- Hollis Budd, Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation
- Peter Carpino, United Way of Greater Rochester Inc.
- Ann Marie Cook, Agency of Council Executives
- Trilby de Jung, Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency
- William Destler, Rochester Institute of Technology
- Robert Duffy, Rochester Business Alliance Inc.
- Edward Doherty, Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Anne Kress, Monroe Community College
- Jennifer Leonard, Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Roosevelt Mareus, Rochester Educational Opp. Center
- Rev. Marvin McMickle, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity
- Larry Marx, the Children's Agenda
- Joseph Morelle, state Assembly Majority Leader
- Shaun Nelms, East High School
- Tyrone Reaves, TruForm Manufacturing Corp.
- Peter Robinson, the University of Rochester
- John Urban, Greater Rochester Health Foundation
- Bolgen Vargas, Rochester City School District
- Miguel Velazquez, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority
- Lovely Warren, City of Rochester
- Danny Wegman, Wegmans Food Markets Inc.
- Fran Weisberg, United Way of Greater Rochester Inc.
- Bridgette Wiefing, Rochester Regional Health System

More than 100 organizations throughout the region are involved in the initiative. Its work is being supported by the Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force, which is appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and consists of more than 20 members of the governor's cabinet.