

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Strategies for Professionals and Communities

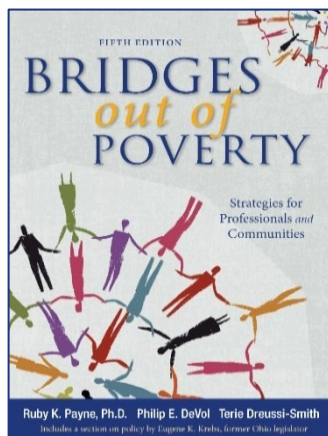
Bridges out of Poverty provides a framework for understanding the challenges faced by individuals living in poverty and dives into the systemic barriers that can keep them there. The workshop explores the hidden rules of economic class, the resources required for stability, and the importance of building social capital to foster long-term stability.

Bridges explores the reality that moving out of poverty requires more than just financial resources—it requires a shift in one’s mindset, access to healthy and supportive relationships and networks, and systemic change. This is a big ask for individuals and families who may be stuck in a constant state of crisis.

These approaches complement the work being done by professionals who work with families experiencing instability. During the *Bridges* workshop, tools are provided for professionals to support their clientele in shifting from a just-getting-by world to a getting-ahead world.

By incorporating the Bridges Out of Poverty framework, concepts and coaching tools, professionals can better address economic instability and design person-centered policies that create more lasting change.

The book and accompanying workshop are implemented internationally. They are valuable resources for anyone working directly or indirectly with individuals and families in poverty to improve relationships, outcomes, collaboration and policies.



WORKSHOP AGENDA

- Module 1: Introduction Material
- Module 2: Resources for Stability
- Module 3: The Causes of Poverty
- Module 4: Mental Models
- Module 5: Hidden Rules
- Module 6: Language & Communication
- Module 7: Family & Social Capital
- Module 8: Relationships & New Tools
- Module 9: Core Constructs and Building a Bridges Community

GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTING BY WORLD

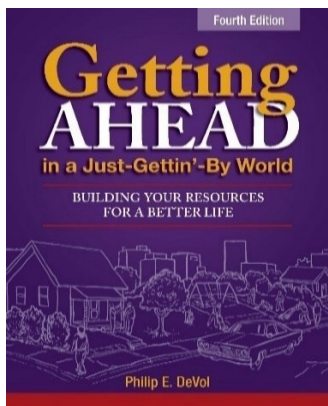
Empowering families with resources and hope

The **Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World** workshop is the participant part of the Bridges out of Poverty Model. It is a transformative, co-investigative approach that empowers individuals and families in poverty to assess their own situations, identify barriers, and build resources for long-term stability. Rather than prescribing solutions, it fosters self-sufficiency by helping participants shift from survival mode to economic mobility while

strengthening community connections. By integrating Getting Ahead principles, we move beyond short-term fixes to create lasting change that breaks generational cycles and strengthens communities.

During the *Getting Ahead* workshop, tools are provided for “investigators” to support the shift from a just-getting-by world to a getting-ahead world. There are no lectures, but co-learning through “investigating” the past and a future life to solve problems by building essential resources for stability. Upon graduation, investigators have developed a future story along with a new network of supports to reach it!

Getting Ahead is implemented internationally as part of the **Bridges Out of Poverty** model, which is a transformational look at poverty through the lens of economic class. The Bridges framework educates both the resourced and the under-resourced with the same language; improving individual relationships and engagement, organizational and business outcomes, community collaboration and systems that help everyone to get ahead.



GETTING AHEAD CURRICULUM

- Module 1: My Life Now
- Module 2: Theory of Change
- Module 3: Causes of Poverty
- Module 4: Hidden Rules
- Module 5: Language & Communication
- Module 6: Resources for Stability
- Module 7: Self-Assessment
- Module 8: Community Assessment
- Module 9: Building Resources
- Module 10: Future Stories with SMART goals



What makes the Bridges out of Poverty Model different than other workshops, initiatives, and programs?

Differentiator	Explanation
We define poverty as “the extent to which an individual does without resources.”	This gives us a common language about poverty – the goal being to build essential resources for long term stability so that we have a solid foundation. This makes our education, training, housing, and employment outcomes far more sustainable.
We engage and learn from people in poverty in a shoulder-to-shoulder coaching relationship.	People with lived experience have insight, goals, and dreams for themselves. Without this insight, planners (who are usually from the middle class) use their own belief of what poverty is in the community and typically make plans for the individuals. Our outcomes suffer as a result when the individual is not the one doing the “change talking” and “planning” for themselves.
We recognize the impact that income and wealth disparity have on individuals and communities.	Individuals and communities suffer when people live in unstable environments. The individual loses a job because of the lack of resources; the business owner has higher turnover costs, the community neighborhoods decline. The Bridges model is far more than just band aid solutions.
We use the hidden rules of class to bring people together across class lines to solve community problems.	We raise class issues to help people create relationships of mutual respect across class lines, as a way of solving problems. This supports a mutual respect for one another’s life challenges. With relationships, trust and understanding, we can make community changes.
We provide a common language and understanding for all : individuals living in unstable environments, employers, service providers and decision makers.	While Getting Ahead is a class for people experiencing poverty; the Bridges workshops provide a similar curriculum and understanding for the resourced service providers, employers, and decision makers. This gives us the opportunity to work alongside of individuals and families using collective understanding, language, case planning and strategies, balancing out the power and supporting individuals to reach their preferred future in a holistic person-centered approach.

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