

September 16, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE



**Virtual Poverty Simulation on October 19, 2021, with
Follow-up SocioEconomic Differences Workshop on October 26, 2021**

The Moline Foundation, Moline Public Library, Child Abuse Council/AOK Network, River Bend Foodbank and University of Illinois Extension are joining forces to offer a virtual simulation about living in poverty called *\$1,000 to Spend* on October 19, 2021, from 1:30 to 3pm. A follow-up workshop on *SocioEconomic Differences* will be on October 26, 2021, at 1:30 to 3pm. Attendance at simulation is not required for workshop or visa versa.

COVID has pushed more people towards poverty, although when describing themselves, most say they are middle class. Unfortunately, numbers tell a different story. The River Bend Food Bank shows an increased need of 50,000 people in the QCA since COVID began.

The simulation illustrates the difficulties of trying to pay for everything each month when enough money isn't coming in but is going out. You have the chance to make the difficult decisions that face people in poverty every day. In the past, this collaboration offered an in-person experience through University of Illinois Extension Program.

The workshop covers values, hidden rules, and speech. People who live in poverty make decisions based on their culture--what they value and what rules they live by. Learn to better understand their reality versus yours. If you didn't grow up in poverty—you don't understand it. No matter how well intended you might be, the values and hidden rules that people in poverty live can be baffling to the other groups.

If you work with clients that come from a different background or just want to understand the choices others make, the workshop will help you.

Registration is free for both workshops but is limited. To sign up:

- *\$1,000 to Spend* Simulation: <https://go.illinois.edu/PovertySimulationOct19>
- SocioEconomics Differences workshop: <https://go.illinois.edu/SocioEconomicsWorkshop>

--30--

About The Moline Foundation

The Moline Foundation, founded in 1953, is a community foundation which provides grants to health, human services, education, community development, the arts and other charitable organizations which benefit the citizens of Moline and the surrounding area. The Moline Foundation receives and administers charitable gifts for all citizens in a seven-county region including Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, and McDonough Counties in Illinois and Scott County in Iowa.

Contact Info:

Name: Susan Zelnio

Phone: (309) 581-2974

Email: szelnio@molinefoundation.org