



The **Financial Stability Partnership (FSP)** is a collaborative community-based initiative focused on bringing all sectors of the community together to address a common agenda:
Reducing poverty in Belknap County.

The FSP will accomplish this through:

- Collecting and sharing data regularly
- Planning and implementing effective strategies together
- Continuously communicating our work and its results with our partners and the community

Why poverty matters

Poverty impacts everyone, and we need everyone's help to solve the complex problem of poverty in Belknap County.

- **Education:** Children living in low-income families tend to start school significantly less prepared. These struggling students are more likely to drop-out before high school graduation, less likely to attend college, and more likely to struggle to find employment.
- **Health:** Those living in poverty are less likely to have health insurance and receive preventative medical care and more likely to struggle with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Children living in poverty show higher rates of asthma and other chronic childhood health problems.
- **Safety:** Areas of higher concentrations of families living in poverty typically see higher crime rates. Crime in these geographic areas is more likely to be tied to property theft, drug-related offenses, or violence.

Collective impact is the most effective strategy to address poverty in Belknap County

Poverty is a complex problem with many interrelated causes and consequences. Successful efforts to reduce poverty must address a variety of barriers that challenge individuals and families as they seek financial stability.

The **Collective Impact Model** does just that! By bringing all community sectors to the table to address the root causes of poverty in our county, we will work together to create a better community for all.

Want to get involved? Join the "One Thing Movement" by:

1. Committing to the common goal of reducing poverty and considering ways that your decisions impact this goal.
2. Identifying one way that you can help to reduce poverty in your community.
3. Sharing your "One Thing" and your ongoing progress with your friends, family and the FSP network.

Workgroups

The Financial Stability Partnership's efforts are led by workgroups. Each workgroup is made up of representatives from social service providers, the business and government sectors, and community members at large.

Armed with specific goals and related indicators, the workgroups outline and implement effective strategies, all of which reinforce the initiative's goal of reducing the number of individuals and families experiencing poverty in Belknap County by 2020.

Current Workgroups

- Early Childhood
- Adolescents
- Health Care
- Wealth Development and Management
- Workforce Development
- Transportation
- Housing and Advocacy workgroups will be emerging in coming months.



Current poverty rates in Belknap County

- **8.5% of households** in Belknap County **live below the Federal Poverty Level**, including 1 in 10 of Belknap County's children.
- Over **32% of Belknap County children** qualify for free or reduced lunch assistance, indicating that their **households may be financially unstable**.
- The **median income** for Belknap County is **12% less** than that of the state of New Hampshire.

