



STEPS PRINCIPLES

STEPS believes in building upon its current structure as a statewide coalition of advocates against poverty which includes concerned low income people, other individuals, and partner organizations. We believe it is necessary for this coalition to promote public awareness of poverty in New Jersey and work to build an understanding of citizens and government roles in solving the problems of poverty.

STEPS believes all members of our society have the right to income and resources to meet the actual cost of basic living necessities in New Jersey including decent housing, food, healthcare, and clothing. When the economy doesn't offer sufficient job opportunities, public policy must fill the gap. Those who cannot find jobs, who are earning wages too low to support themselves or who are unable to work must have enough income, housing, food and health assistance to assure that basic necessities are met. Education, job training, childcare and any other services should be provided to enable people to move into jobs as they become available.

STEPS believe the heart of the effort to stop poverty has to come from people working together in their local communities, especially those communities suffering economic hardship.

STEPS believes that only through the organization of strong, representative groups in economically marginalized communities, can we build a lasting movement to bring positive change to people's lives.

STEPS believe in using various means to reach its goal of bringing economic justice to New Jersey.

STEPS believes in direct (non-violent public marches, rallies, press conferences, speak-outs, and any other media involvement, etc.) as the key to any effort to bring new awareness to the problems people face.

STEPS also believes our actions must be accompanied by careful analysis & open debates of issues, policies, strategies and wide distribution of accurate information and building relationships with all concerned, about economic problems faced by all New Jerseyans.