

Poverty Expert • Life-changing Speaker • Recognized Author



Dr. Donna M. Beegle

Meet Dr. Beegle

Dr. Donna M. Beegle inspires and educates individuals, organizations, politicians and entire communities with proven models to better outcomes for people in poverty.

Born into a migrant labor family and married at 15, Dr. Beegle is the only member of her family who has not been incarcerated. By age 24, she earned her GED and then, within 10 years, received her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She is an authentic voice from poverty, who speaks, writes and trains across the nation to break the iron cage of poverty for others through services provided by her company, Communications Across Barriers (CAB). For more than 27 years, she has traveled throughout hundreds of cities in 47 states and four countries to assist professionals with proven strategies for breaking poverty barriers. State agencies, politicians and other organizations have partnered with her to implement community-wide approaches to improving outcomes for citizens in poverty.

Dr. Beegle's inspiring story of moving from 28 years of homelessness to achieving a doctorate and her groundbreaking work assisting people to move out of poverty have been featured in newspapers and television around the nation, including CNN and PBS. Dr. Beegle has received numerous awards (e.g., the National Speaker of the Year for the New Mexico Bar Foundation and the Oregon Ethics in Business award), and recently Portland State University's School of Social Work Building was named in her honor.

Services Available

With her unique insider's perspective as well as her passion and insights into "what works," Dr. Beegle provides top notch learning opportunities for individuals, organizations and communities that want to make a real difference with moving people out of poverty.

Keynotes and Workshops

Dynamic! Fascinating! Eye-opening! – a few words used to describe Dr. Beegle's keynote speeches and workshop trainings. She wins over even the hardest to reach audiences. She tailors every speech and training to the specific audience to ensure the greatest impact for breaking poverty barriers. Dr. Beegle targets her message to empower professionals to make a difference.

Most requested topics include:

- Understanding Different Life Experiences of Poverty
- Communicating More Effectively Across Poverty Barriers
- Educating Youth and Adults in Poverty
- Motivation Strategies
- Mentoring/Navigating People in Poverty
- Moving Beyond Coping with Poverty
- Organizational Poverty Competency
- Action Planning

Program Length: Keynotes are 30-90 minutes; workshops begin at one hour and can be ongoing.

Ideal Audience: Professionals in justice, education, health, social service, faith-based groups, philanthropic foundations, frontline staff and organizations that want to see better outcomes for children and adults who struggle with poverty.

Exceptional Resources

Dr. Beegle's unique poverty lens, combined with her research on best practices, is captured in her books, **SEE POVERTY... Be The Difference** and an **Action Approach Guidebook** to educating students who live in the crisis of poverty. Dr. Beegle has also written journal articles and publications that provide practical tools for making a difference. She offers a FREE newsletter with tools and best practices for making a difference. Sign up for CAB's newsletter or purchase Dr. Beegle's books on our website, www.combarriers.com.



Books are available online

Poverty Institutes

Launched in 2006 in Portland, Oregon, the Poverty Institutes have gone on the road to communities around the country. The Poverty Institute is an intensive two-day training that shatters stereotypes, reduces misunderstandings and judgments, and provides proven, best practices for what works to help people break through poverty barriers. Dr. Beegle teaches in a highly interactive, hands-on style using simulations, role-plays, modeling and dialogue. Poverty Institutes are frequently described as “life changing.”



Ideal Audience: Professionals in all fields.

Coaching Institutes

This exciting train-the-trainer opportunity prepares professionals to become certified in-house “Poverty Coaches.” The two-day Coaching Institute involves participants in serving as on-site experts for educating colleagues by providing leadership for eliminating barriers and developing system wide approaches for improving outcomes for families and individuals.

Poverty Coaches are also trained to conduct Poverty Competency Assessments and assist their organizations in developing and implementing customized action plans with measurable results. Coaches receive a comprehensive toolkit, including PowerPoint templates, guidebooks, activities, sample handouts, and resources for breaking barriers and an Action Approach Training Kit. Poverty Coaches are certified for two years and graduates are required to gain new skills and materials at the CAB re-certification trainings.



Ideal Audience: Professionals in all fields who have completed the Poverty Institute or Poverty 101.

Opportunity Community

The Opportunity Community Model™ is based on more than two decades of research, test programs and studies. Dr. Beegle has developed a ground breaking poverty reduction model that builds individual and community capacities for addressing the complexities of poverty. The model kicks off with a Prosperity Summit designed to develop a poverty-informed community to build capacity and provide a collective approach to breaking poverty barriers. The Navigator/Neighbor program development is introduced and the Opportunity Community Conference for Neighbors in poverty follows. The Opportunity Community Model™ also conducts a Youth Opportunity Community Model for 6th to 12th grade students who currently live in poverty.



Ideal Audience: Communities looking for an effective approach to fighting poverty and people in poverty who feel shame and hopelessness.

Customized Programs

CAB also offers Poverty Competency Assessments, Action Planning and private consultations. These include a sequential program and systemic approach to improving outcomes for people in poverty. Custom systemic approaches for organizations, communities, and statewide efforts vary according to your needs and outcome objectives.

Donna Has a Reputation for Excellence



*"My rational side was **awed** by your command of economic facts and social science dynamics; my political and emotional side was **moved** by your compelling personal narrative and human examples. I have never seen done what you did; never seen anyone be so persuasive, genuine, credible and effective on the subject of poverty. Your message needs to be heard across this nation in forums of activists, business chiefs, non-profits, journalists, public officials and community leaders."*

~ **Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing**

*"Thank you Atlanta Women's Foundation, Junior League, Jewish Federation and United Way for bringing such an **impactful** speaker to Atlanta. I can't think of another program that has had such a profound impact on me personally and on our organization as a whole. Thank you."*

~ **Donna Buchanan, COO, United Way of Atlanta**

*"Dr. Beegle has a special way of **shining a light** on an unfortunately large segment of society that tends to live in the shadows. For those who have not experienced real poverty, the dilemma is often not a lack of concern, but an inability to connect to the issues most important to those facing hardship. Dr. Beegle knows how to illuminate those issues in an amazingly practical, humane and productive manner. Her work is focused on issues that are key to **transforming society's view** of those in poverty, which is perhaps the essential first step in eliminating poverty all together."*

~ **Rich Brown, SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility, Bank of America**

*"Dr. Beegle is a great educator because she is an **exceptional communicator** as she redefines stereotypes about poverty, the people living in poverty and the opportunity the middle class has to help erase the shame of poverty and the guilt of affluence. My personal education was grossly lacking until I learned from Dr. Beegle."*

~ **Jeremy Billete, Teacher**

*"Dr. Beegle is a very **special individual** who happens to be a person who has not only grown up in generational poverty, but also has the unique gift to be able to "communicate across barriers" very effectively whether one-on-one or with an audience of thousands. I highly recommend any individual, group, organization or public agency interested in learning about poverty by a woman with a **clear and passionate voice** engage Dr. Beegle. They will not be disappointed."*

~ **Jay C. Bloom, President/CEO, Bloom Anew**

Dr. Beegle and CAB Gold Star Speakers are available for personalized speaking engagements.



Lynda Coates



Elia Moreno



Anette Carlisle

For further information on availability and booking arrangements, contact:

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