

PAUPERTAS

Rise in Child and Elderly Poverty Rates: A Discussion on Impact and Solutions

Hosted by

The New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

Marcos A. Crespo, Chairman



*August 11, 2015 / 10:30 A.M. in
Las Americas Conference Center, New York*

Background:

Earlier this year and with significant news media coverage, the Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force released two brief reports documenting the alarming poverty rate of Latino children and Latino elderly in the major urban centers of our state. With some cities having Latino child poverty rates nearing 70% and with Latino elderly having the highest poverty rates of all ethnic and racial groups, the Task Force briefs show an indisputable problem with severe negative consequences for the future of our state.

Economists tell us that 40% of children growing up in poverty remain poor as adults. These are not marginal numbers as Latino's are the largest ethnic minority in the state and will soon represent 1 of every 4 New Yorkers.

As a way to begin to address this situation and the threat it creates to the well-being of our communities, the Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families along with the Committee on Social Services and the Committee on Aging have agreed to hold various state-wide joint hearings with the Task Force to ascertain solutions and legislative action to counter the growing indigence rates.

As a precursor to these hearings, prominent organizations with a long history of fighting poverty are providing a private briefing to Task Force members to help gauge the dynamics behind this pervasive problem and advice on achievable corrective public policies.

Presenting their findings and anti-poverty policy suggestions are:

Maria Alvarez

Executive Director of the New York Statewide Senior Action Network

Susan Zimet

Executive Director of Hunger Action Network of New York State

Ron Deutsch

Interim Executive Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute

Karla Digirolamo

Chief Executive Officer of the NYS Community Action Association

Emily Miles

Director of Policy, Advocacy and Research, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

During this briefing and discussion, viable solutions will be highlighted to help the Task Force develop an anti-poverty agenda prior to the 2016 Legislative Session. Part of the discussion will focus on:

- Effects of structural racism on poverty rates;
- The life-long impact of child poverty;
- The high rates of Latino Elderly poverty;
- How to develop a multi-generational plan to improve the outcomes for families and children;
- How the PRH Task Force can advance evidence-base and/or innovative policies and practices; and
- The need to develop a shared data tracking/evaluation system.