

# MAKING YOUR LIBRARY AN ESCAPE ROUTE FROM POVERTY

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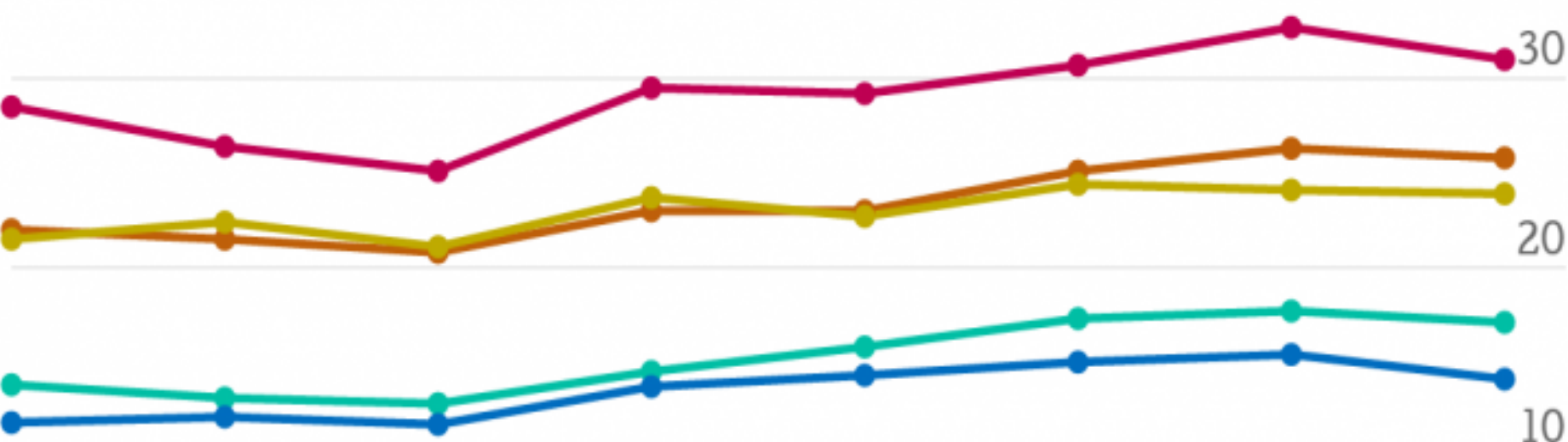
Beth Crist

Colorado State Library

# Child Poverty Rate in Colorado

40

■ South Central ■ Southwest ■ Eastern Plains ■ Northwest ■ Front Range



20

10

0

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

CPR News

Data: US Census Bureau

# Deficit viewpoint of poverty

Stereotypes of people in poverty:

- Poor people do not value education and are less intelligent than those with higher income
- Poor people are lazy
- Poor people are substance abusers
- Poor people are linguistically deficient and poor communicators
- Poor people are ineffective and inattentive parents

## Growing Up Poor: Childhood Poverty In Colorado

CPR News is exploring why the state has such a high child poverty rate, what the impact is on our collective society, and what can be done about it.



### Teenagers, poverty, stress and academics: What we're learning

Teenagers speak about their lives in poverty and what it's taking to climb out and researchers talk about how poverty gets into the brain.

[READ MORE !\[\]\(c1168d6a8b365d11e842ece304635fa7\_img.jpg\)](#)

Photo courtesy Samantha Lobato, Project Voyce



### News NOW

All Things Considered

 LISTEN |  SCHEDULE

### TOP STORIES

# Poor Kids

November 20, 2012

FRONTLINE explores what poverty means to children and to the country's future.



53:41) FRONTLINE explores the economic crisis as it's rarely seen - through the eyes of children.

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## FEATURED FROM THIS REPORT



November 20, 2012, 9:39 pm

**ra's Story: Growing Up Poor San Francisco**



November 20, 2012, 9:38 pm

**Jezza Neumann on Making the Film & Helping the Kids**



November 20, 2012, 11:01 am

**By the Numbers: Childhood Poverty in the U.S.**

## THE LATEST

PBS is Looking for America's Most Innovative Educators!



PBS LearningMedia  
Digital Innovators



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## NEXT ON FRONTLINE



**League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis**

ENCORE PRESENTATION

January 20th

## RECENT STORIES



January 14, 2015 / 5:15 pm

**New York City Ends Solitary for Inmates Under 21**

# Small group discussion

- What resonated with you?
- What challenges/barriers do these teens face in using libraries?
- What opportunities are there for libraries to meet their needs?

# Outreach

## Where:

- All partner locations
- Via bookmobiles
- Community centers
- Social services (WIC, etc.)
- Goodwill, etc.

## What:

- All in-library programs
- Little Free Libraries
- Summer reading



# Collaborating

- Schools & preschools
- Afterschool programs
- Social service agencies
- Houses of worship
- Local government
- Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, other nonprofits
- Community centers
- Homeless shelters, housing developments
- Planned Parenthood
- Juvenile detention centers
- Suicide prevention services
- Community colleges
- Childcare centers
- Immigration centers



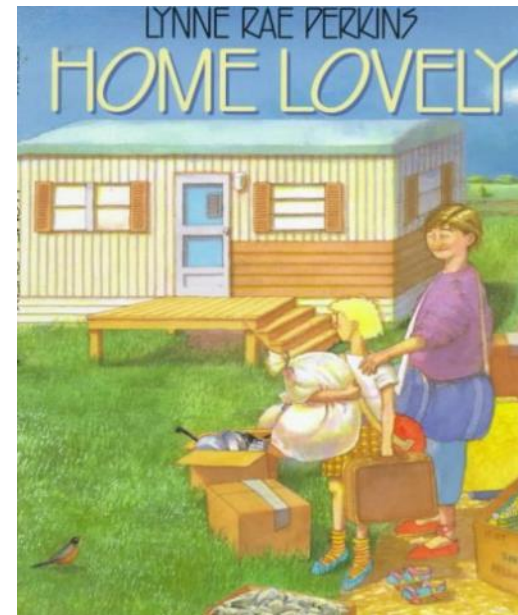
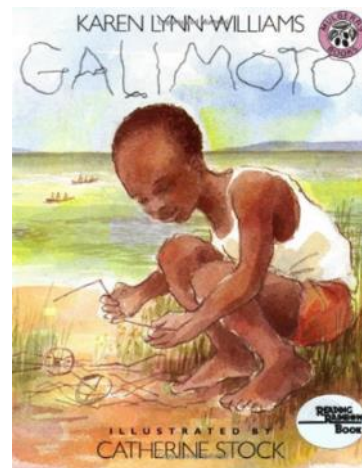
# Programs

# Building your audience

- Go **TO** your audience
- Break down barriers to library use
- Promote your services in:
  - All outreach locations
  - Radio
  - Big box stores
  - Public transit
  - Laundromats
  - Health clinics
  - Schools, preschools
  - Social services

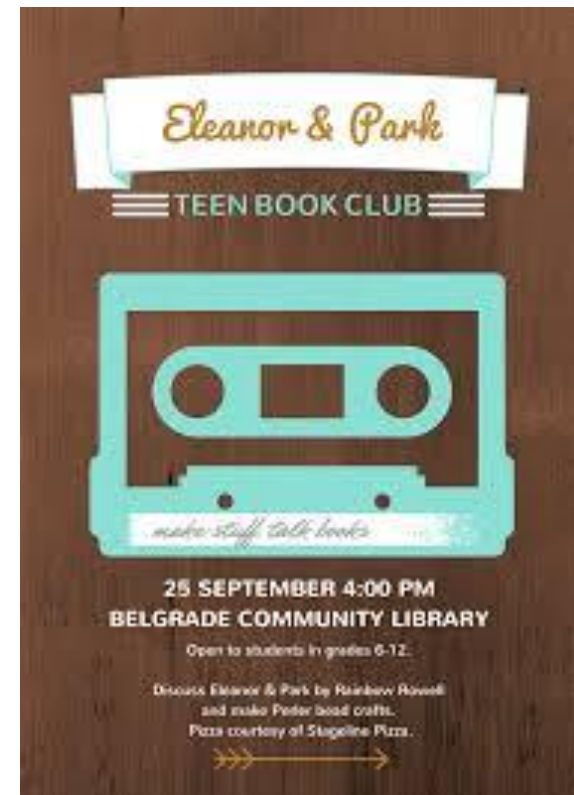
# Children's collections

- Actively seek titles from inclusive publishers
- Seek titles that portray resilient, resourceful kids; that avoid stereotypes of kids/families in poverty; and that are not preachy
- Incorporate this diversity into programs
- Check online sources
  - We Give Books
  - Unite for Literacy



# YA Collections

- Acquire YA lit & films that portray teens in poverty accurately; actively feature them in displays & programs
- Have referral info at YA desk for services for low-income families
- Display materials on college scholarships & about your community college



# Customer service

- Ensure teens feel safe & welcome
- Build relationships & trust
- Respect & dignify teens; recognize their assets
- Include teens in poverty in leadership roles
- Use people-first language
- Be flexible to reduce barriers to library use
- Train staff on issues of poverty



# Thank you!

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