

## Pretending to Be Poor Can Change Your Perspective: The DSU Poverty Simulation Project



The DSU Poverty Simulation Project is an inter-professional education and practice learning and research experience. Participants are assigned to a family group and given a family member's role/identity to play. The "family" is provided with a scenario involving a crisis which plunges them into immediate poverty. The family learns how to survive under the dire circumstances for one month which is divided into four 15-minute segments each representing one week during the simulation. The "crisis" forces the family to search for ways to survive poverty by living on a fixed amount of income. Social welfare "assistance" is made available using volunteer "actors" who help the family members at tables representing community resources. Families seek help at the resource tables to alleviate their crisis. The experience allows participants to pretend to be poor so they can understand how to better help families trying to survive on very low incomes. The simulation is offered by the DSU Department of Social Work and the DSU Quality Enhancement Program on Wednesday September 20, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Union Second Floor East. Pre- and posttests will be given. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. For more information or to sign up to participate, please contact Dr. Jana Donahoe, Principal Investigator, at 662-846-4795 or [jdonahoe@deltastate.edu](mailto:jdonahoe@deltastate.edu)