

## “Rising out of poverty or getting rid of it?”

First of all, to act as frames of reference, please review [Indilemmapolis, IN: As affluence increases, so does poverty and despair](#) and the Southeast Working-Class Task Force (SEW-CTF) documentary, *Who own poverty?* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx53bs26pLE&t=14s>.

Next, from a review of CICF website,

- <https://www.cicf.org/about-cicf/mission-strategic-plans/>
- <https://www.cicf.org/about-cicf/mission-strategic-plans/plan-for-marion-county/>

the SEW-CTF has some issues with CICF ideas stated on the site around these wordings and concepts:

- “CICF exists to make Central Indiana a better place,”
- “COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES,”
- “Plan for Marion County”

For one example, let’s consider CICF ideas regarding poverty: “The chances of making it out of poverty...are slim” or “We believe all people can rise out of poverty...”

In contrast, *the goal of the SEW-CTF is not just to get the poor “out of poverty,” but to get rid of it.* And we agree with the Indiana Poor People’s Campaign (<https://www.facebook.com/IndianaPPC/>): the poor must self-organize and lead the effort to eradicate poverty. It’s not that CICF can’t be concerned; it’s in what capacity? CICF must make sure their orientation towards the poor is not patronizing or colonial.

See SEW-CTF proposal for schools located in pockets of poverty:

- [Urban schools as sites to contest inequalities](#)
- [Urban school transformation: A comprehensive vision](#)

In this regard, SEW-CTF is attempting to reason with the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) and its anti-poverty initiative the Faith & Action Project (FAP) that the vestiges of the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law which codified White Supremacy are still subtly influencing how the poor are viewed; and so, what the non-poor think poor people are capable of doing.

- <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/A-Commentary-with-Recommendations-for-the-Faith-Action-Project-and-Christian-Theological-Seminary.pdf>

Note especially the PowerPoint used to frame and substantiate the assertion that Indiana’s Eugenics legacy influences local poverty initiatives such as CTS/Faith & Action Project (<https://www.cts.edu/faith-action-project/>) or CICF by the lack of actual poor people (“experts on poverty”) on their boards, or in advisory capacity regarding purposes, policies, and programs.

- [Issues of poverty and social justice: Indiana, Indianapolis, Butler University...](#)

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The Southeast Working-Class Task Force was established in early 2015 by the Southeast Congress and is an outcome of the Southeast Poverty Study Circle. The task force is dedicated to the following goals regarding our southeast neighborhoods: preserving its working-class history and culture, increasing the representation of low-income families in community affairs, and easing and eradicating poverty.

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