



**Marion County**  
OREGON

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### **County Health Department to Host Community Poverty Simulations**

Salem, OR – The Marion County Health Department, in cooperation with community partners, will be hosting two Community Poverty Simulation and poverty awareness training opportunities this spring. The simulation and training will be held March 13 and April 30 in Salem and will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will have the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget or participate as a service provider to low income individuals.

The interactive poverty simulation was created by the Missouri Community Action Partnership to increase awareness and understanding of the realities of living in poverty. The simulation will be followed with poverty awareness training by CoActive Connections that will provide tools to more effectively address issues related to poverty. For this training, Coactive Connections will be introducing new content for returning participants.

“The simulation is designed for participants to experience in a realistic way what it’s like to try to meet basic needs like food, housing, utilities and medical expenses with little or no income,” said Marion County Public Health Division Manager Pam Heilman. “I encourage anyone who has an interest to attend. With 11.5% of Marion County families living below the Federal Poverty Level and 53% of school-age children eligible for free or reduced lunch, this is an important issue for our community.”

The Community Poverty Simulation has been presented across the country with great success. The simulation is designed for service providers, community leaders, volunteers, educators, as well as individual community members that serve people experiencing poverty. Cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Once registered, participants will receive information on the location of the training. To register for the poverty simulation or for more information contact please contact Diana Dickey, health educator, at [ddickey@co.marion.or.us](mailto:ddickey@co.marion.or.us) or (503) 576-4631.

This training is sponsored by the Marion County Health Department, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, Marion-Polk Food Share, Mano a Mano Family Center, and CoActive Connections. The training is made possible in part by a grant from the Northwest Health Foundation.

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