

# 2019 MHSA Spring Pre-Conference Event

## Poverty Simulation



**This event is for Staff Only**  
**May 7, 2019**  
**MHSA Spring Conference**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Here's how the poverty simulations work:  
Participants assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget and interact with volunteers playing the roles of bill collectors, school administrators, service providers, and more.

A simulation creates a community of people living in poverty for one "month" comprised of four 15-minute weeks. During this hour, each family unit must connect with community resources (i.e., schools, utility companies, social service workers, etc.) to meet their basic needs on a limited income.

The experience lasts about two and a half hours. It includes an introduction, the actual simulation exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and actors share their feelings and experiences and discuss ways in which we are working to reduce poverty in our community.

**Lunch is included**