

# Hope Takes Action



**Southeast District Council  
Rockford Diocese**

# Our Vision



**END POVERTY through SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

***‘Hope Takes Action’***

a Society of St Vincent dePaul (SVDP)

mentoring program in the Rockford Diocese,  
will transform lives in Kane County by ending poverty

one ***person*** . . .

one ***neighborhood*** . . .

one ***community*** . . . at a time.

# Tell me more...

The **‘Hope Takes Action’** mentoring program incorporates facilitated workshops developed by [aha! Process Inc.](#)

These workshops are currently being run by over [300 organizations](#) across the US & Canada including civic, not-for-profit, congregations, and other St Vincent dePaul councils/conferences.

# Where is this being done?



**Workshops  
are being  
conducted  
in over 300  
locations in  
the USA and  
Canada!**

# How does it work?

## Assign & Accept

Participants are assigned 2 Mentors, discuss features and benefits of program, and develop a relationship. Participants decide to accept the program.

## Workshop

Participants in groups of 8-16, become **'investigators'** in an aha! Process Getting Ahead facilitated workshop lasting 16 - 20 weeks.

## Implement Life Changes

Workshop graduates implement life changes with the help and encouragement of their mentors.

At all points along the way, it is the participant that accepts and agrees to take part in the program.

# What is behind the workshop?

**The Getting Ahead workshop helps individuals develop 9 essential resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.**

**The fundamental idea is that people are the experts of their own situations. They can be empowered to take control of their lives and make good decisions.**

# What is behind the workshop?

The Getting Ahead curriculum spans **16 - 20 weeks** covering **10 Learning Modules** and involves rigorous work done in a safe learning environment with the support of an experienced facilitator and co-facilitator.

It enables **participants**, called “**investigators**”, to **examine their own experience of poverty** as well as explore issues in the community that impact poverty – banking, housing, jobs, transportation – providing critical information the community can use to take action to end poverty.

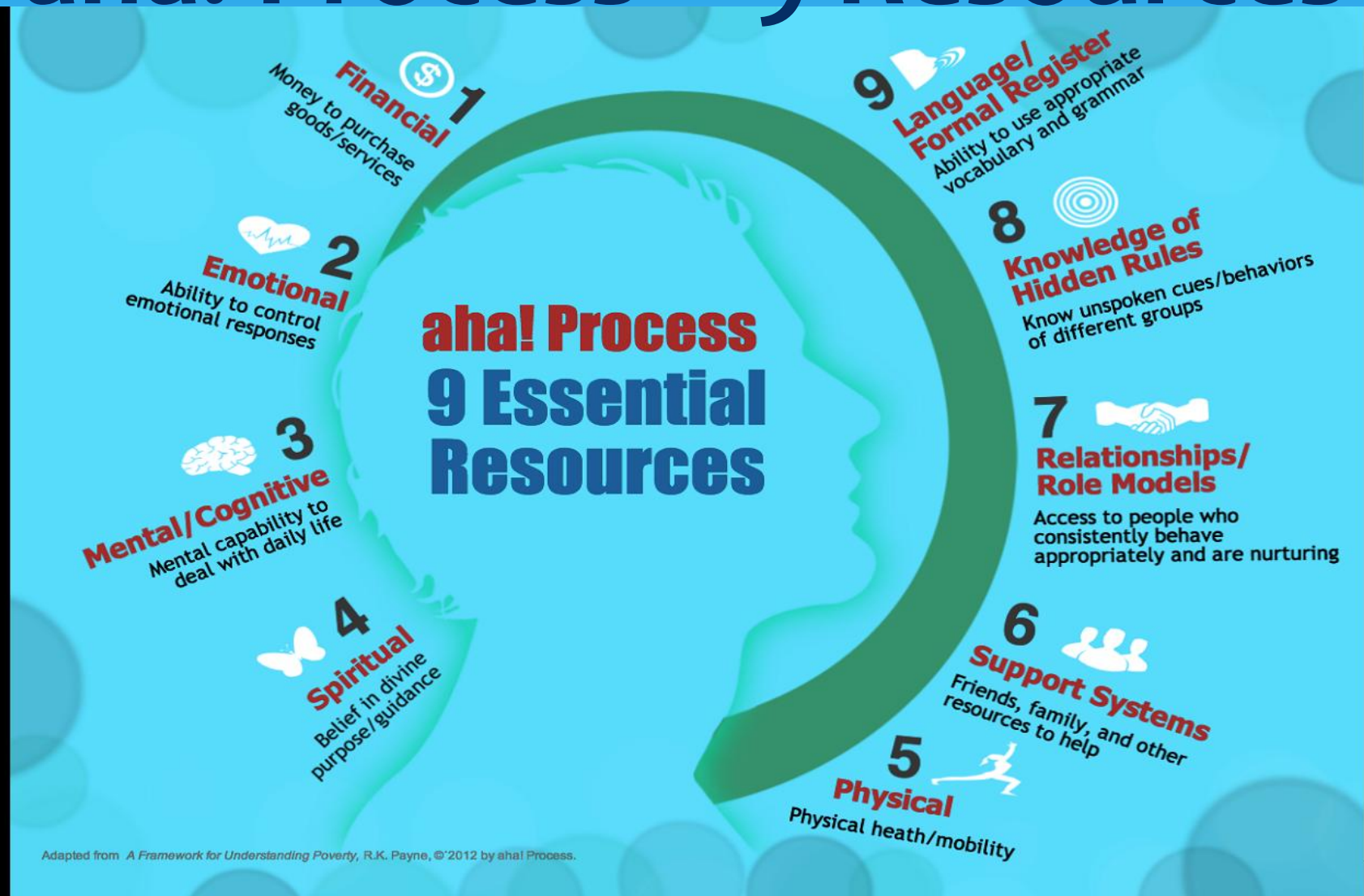
# What is behind the workshop?

The Getting Ahead curriculum guides *Investigators* through **an assessment of their own resources** and how to **build** those resources as part of their move to **self-sufficiency**.

It puts the **concepts, tools, and relationships** in the hands of people in poverty **to make a difference in their own lives** and in the life of their community.

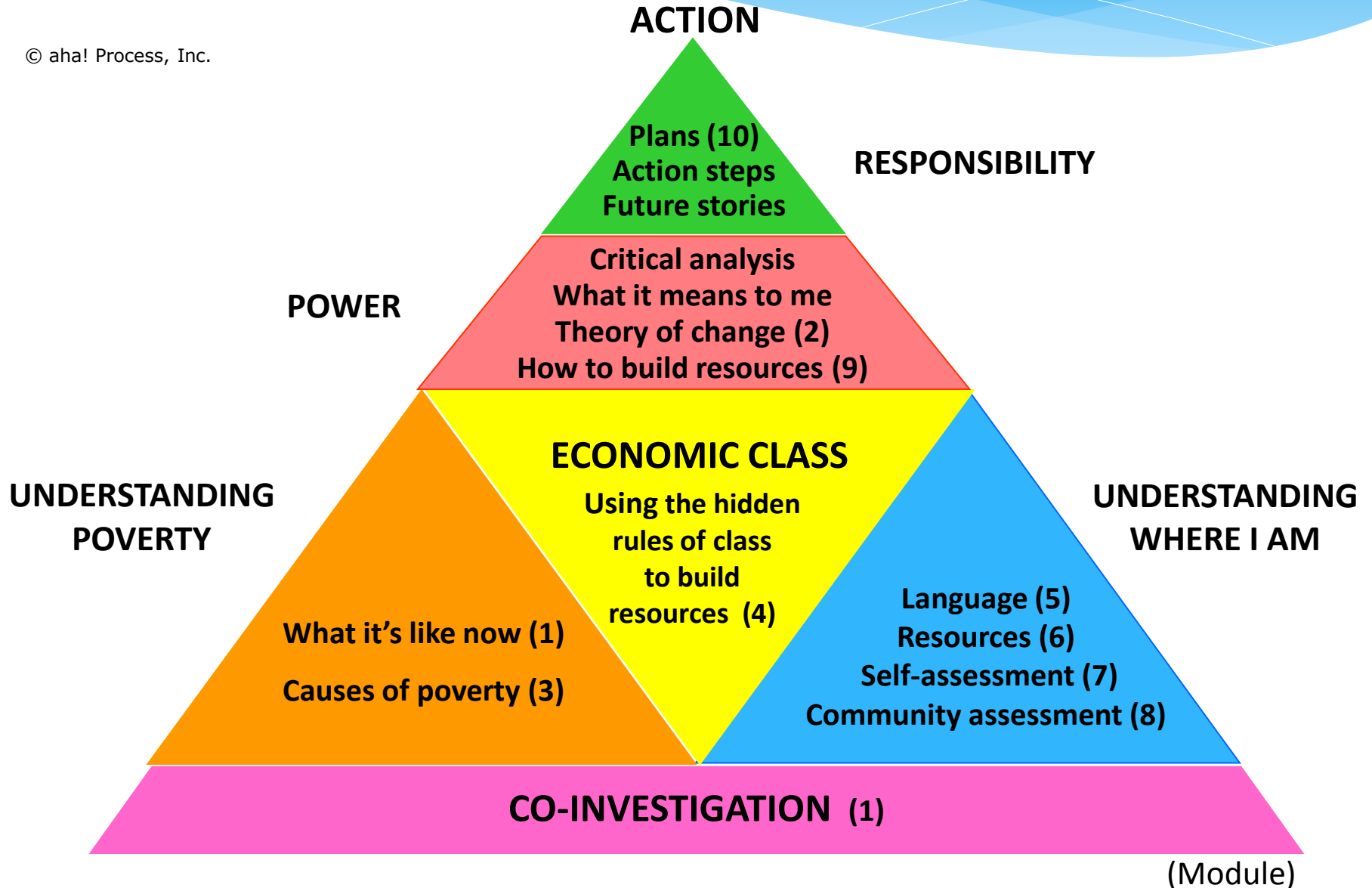


# aha! Process – 9 Resources



# Getting Ahead 10 modules, 16-20 sessions

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# What does SVDP need?

## Volunteers!

### Mentors

Coach the Candidate through the entire process.  
Mentors are there to affirm, build and facilitate connections.  
Mentors never do what the person is capable of doing for themselves.

### Facilitators & Co-Facilitators

Guide the Getting Ahead process  
by working with a group (8 to 16) of Investigators.  
They are a class-time resource for Investigators.

### Program Support

Individuals and/or groups to provide meals, childcare, set-up/clean-up for the workshop sessions.

# Tell me more about each role. .

## Mentors

Mentors work with participants in pairs.

Initially, mentors meet to discuss the program and answer questions.

During the workshop sessions, mentors stay 'on the sidelines' keeping touch to affirm, build and maintain the relationship.

After the workshop, mentors will help by coaching participants to carry through on plans developed in the workshop.

# Tell me more about each role. .

## Mentors

**Training** – Mentors will be provided with training and support:

- \* **Education session** – a 6 hour Saturday general session to learn more about poverty and the process used by Hope Takes Action to help people change their lives.
- \* **Mentor training** – a 6 hour Saturday detailed session to learn more about how to be a mentor and program details and specifics.
- \* **Mentor support group** – periodic meetings for mentors to gather and provide support for each other in a structured group setting.

# Tell me more about each role. .

## Mentors

### **Time Commitment –**

- \* Beyond the Education, Training, and Mentor Support Group Training activities, time commitments are both quite flexible and variable.
- \* Expect periodic meetings with Investigators to last no more than 90 minutes occurring no less frequently than once every couple of weeks.

# Tell me more about each role. .

## Facilitators & Co-Facilitators

- \* Facilitators will work in pairs to guide the Getting Ahead workshops.
- \* Each workshop will contain about 12 participants.
- \* The facilitator's role is to ensure the process laid-out by aha Process! is followed.

# Tell me more about each role. .

## Facilitators & Co-Facilitators

**Training** – Facilitators will be provided with training and support:

- \* **Education session** – a 6-hour Saturday general session to learn more about poverty and the process used by Hope Takes Action to help people change their lives.
- \* **Facilitator training** – two 3-hour webinar sessions to learn details on the workshop content and how to facilitate the workshop sessions.
- \* **Facilitator support group** – bi-monthly meetings for facilitators to gather and provide support for each other in a structured group setting.



# Tell me more about each role. .

## Facilitators & Co-Facilitators

### Time Commitment

- \* Beyond the Education, Training, and Facilitator Support Group training activities, Facilitators must be present at all workshop sessions to ensure the learning process is followed. Each workshop session would require 3 to 4 hours one night a week for 16 - 20 weeks.

# When?

‘Hope Takes Action’ is currently in development. While education and training sessions will be held as needed, the anticipated dates for the first few events:

## Spring/Summer 2017

- Saturday Education Sessions

## Late Spring/Summer 2017

- Training Sessions

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Fall 2017

- Start of first Getting Ahead program workgroup

# Hope Takes Action

## We Need Dedicated People To:

- ① Pray!!! With guidance from the Holy Spirit and His grace anything is possible. Please pray that God's will be done and that by His Providence we effectively help those in poverty initiate positive changes in their lives.
- ② Pray!!! Prayerfully discern if you are called to this important ministry. There are many roles to be filled. We can not do it without the support of dedicated people who harbor a love for those less fortunate.
- ③ Pray!!! If you need information please contact either:  
Ray McNamara: [rtmcna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtmcna@sbcglobal.net) (630) 377-9095  
Deacon Jim Mellin: [jmellin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmellin@sbcglobal.net) (630) 584-6246