

# THE POVERTY INITIATIVE



“The Poverty Initiative exemplifies Notre Dame’s mission to be a force for good in a world deeply in need.”

*Jim Sullivan, Professor of Economics and Poverty Initiative Director*

Every day, poverty stifles hope, opportunity, and dignity for 700 million people worldwide, including 37 million Americans. And despite well-intentioned policies and programs, too little is known about how to break poverty’s vicious generational cycle.

The University of Notre Dame’s Poverty Initiative is an unprecedented University-wide effort to develop and advance innovative solutions to help vulnerable populations and to train a new generation of leaders committed to the fight against poverty. It will establish the University as a leading institution for poverty research, illuminating proven pathways out of poverty for people around the world.



Research



Student formation



Impact



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POVERTY INITIATIVE

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## Our work

The Notre Dame Poverty Initiative directs its work toward three areas:

- Research:* By recruiting leading scholars and investing in innovative research programs, the Poverty Initiative will support research that responds to the most pressing issues confronting people in poverty and that holds promise to inform policy, philanthropy, and practice.
- Student formation:* The Poverty Initiative will invest in programming focused on student formation, including curriculum development and new research and experiential learning opportunities for both undergraduates and graduate students. It is committed to forming graduates prepared to address the challenges of poverty in their professional and personal lives.
- Impact:* Making measurable impact in alleviating poverty depends on translating research to action. The Poverty Initiative will engage with partners in government and the nonprofit and corporate sectors to replicate proven programs.

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## Our approach

Through the work of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) in the College of Arts and Letters and the Pulte Institute for Global Development at the Keough School of Global Affairs, Notre Dame has already established a record of success in combining world-class research expertise with deep local knowledge and insights to produce research that impacts practice, policy, and philanthropy.

The new Poverty Initiative will unify efforts across LEO and Pulte, fueling an innovative local-to-global approach. It will also establish stronger connections among the many departments, organizations, programs, faculty, and students across the University who are committed to alleviating poverty. It will leverage Notre Dame's foundation of strong partnerships with more than 450 service providers and practitioners around the world and across the country, including Goodwill Industries, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Driven by a moral imperative to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, and animated by the Catholic social teaching of integral human development, Notre Dame is reshaping the study of poverty to **promote more dignity-affirming approaches to poverty alleviation.**

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## Our leadership



**Jim Sullivan**  
*Director*



**Heather Reynolds**  
*Managing Director*

Learn more at  
[go.nd.edu/poverty](https://go.nd.edu/poverty)

