

**Potential Legislation Ideas for the EOPR Task Force
Metrics and Scope Sub-Committee
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In alignment with federal guidelines regarding poverty measurement the task force shall develop a relevant, fluid model for ongoing evaluation of progress towards poverty reduction and increased economic opportunity. The EOPR Task Force recommends the adoption of the following:

- Legislation/evaluation of policy effect on poverty reduction
 - Legislation/evaluation of policy effect on economic opportunity increase
1. Poverty is incremental and while it is currently defined as living at or below the federal poverty level, the EOPR Task Force acknowledges that a realistic and useful evaluation process requires consideration of a continuum.
 2. The continuum of economic security considers;
 - a. Deep poverty/homelessness (50% below FPL)
 - b. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
 - c. The Modern Alternative Poverty Level (MAP-roughly 121% of FPL)
 - d. Colorado Self-Sufficiency (roughly 250% of FPL)
 - e. Median Household Income (roughly \$62,000 for 2009)
 - f. Asset Building (20% above Self-Sufficiency; savings, purchasing a home, retirement)
 - g. Economic Security (roughly 550% or more of FPL)
 3. The EOPR Task Force recommended model takes into account a continuum of economic security and Asset Development. Asset Development are those individual and community resources available to or within each family.
 4. The domains of the EOPR Task Force include, but are not limited to individual and community asset development, such as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, education and income. These domains are consistent with the Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard and the National Academy of Sciences alternative poverty measure (MAP) and the assumptions of the Asset Building Model.
 5. The EOPR Task Force acknowledges that there are limitations with regards to the overall view of poverty. Some these limitations are;
 - a. Income is the only measure of family economic health
 - b. Use of a single poverty measure distorts the reality of a family's struggle to make ends meet.
 6. The EOPR Task Force acknowledges that there are assumptions with regards to the overall view of poverty. Some of these assumptions are;
 - a. Public benefits "cliffs" are major barriers to families moving out of poverty.
 - b. Generational poverty presents different challenges than situational poverty.
 - c. Families "travel" the economic security continuum within learned parameters.
 - d. To create an accurate baseline the conceptual model needs to remain fluid and flexible.
 - e. Education/job skills training is essential to economic opportunity and security.
 - f. To ensure a successful evaluation the implementation of a logic model is necessary. The logic model can include, but is not limited to the following components.
 - i. INPUTS: resources, contributions, investments that go into the program
 - ii. OUTPUTS: activities, services, events and products that reach people who participate or who are targeted
 - iii. OUTCOMES: results or changes for individuals, groups, communities, organizations, communities, or systems
 - iv. ASSUMPTIONS: the beliefs we have about the program, the people involved, and the context and the way we think the program will work
 - v. EXTERNAL FACTORS: the environment in which the program exists includes a variety of external factors that interact with and influence the program action.