

I'll see it when I believe it

For centuries in this country, we have adhered to the creed, "I'll believe it when I see it."

Our first poverty forum, held on April 20 in Washington, D.C., highlighted how much we need to **flip that**. The key to ending poverty, as we heard from our panel of individuals who have endured it, is to believe we can do it.

In fact, our very first speaker, Tiffany, made sure to highlight the primary role that **mindset** played in her journey. As we heard throughout the morning, the need to embrace a new mindset pertains to all of us. It is a mindset of believing that poverty is not inevitable - a mindset that does not accept that it is unrealistic to end poverty.



Our hope for the first forum was to bring together 50 people – representing 10 different sectors of our society – to form working groups, such as pictured above. Indeed, 50 people attended, and eight working groups were formed. Each group has already begun to connect on their next steps, demonstrating the determination it will take to build this movement together.

In the same way that any of you who are parents would not accept one of your children living with few opportunities while your other children live with plenty, or one of your children living in constant fear of violence while your other children have minimal safety concerns, accepting poverty is illogical. And ending it starts with you. Wherever you are and whatever is happening in your life, you can remove obstacles and create opportunities for your fellow human beings.

Believing in You

We started the forum by listening to people with first-hand experience in poverty. They bared their souls as they shared their journeys. They did so because they believe in what is possible, and they believe in their fellow human beings. They believe in you.

As I looked around the room, I shared their belief. I saw an amazing group of individuals with varied backgrounds, job types, and ages that ranged from 20 to 80. I saw leaders, which I define as people who are courageous enough to do **whatever it takes** to help the most vulnerable among us to obtain economic stability.

I was humbled by the honesty and trust in the room - both during the session and afterward. It was humanity that was most palpable, and I ask you today to [join in this movement](#), to believe in yourself and to recognize that your actions will also encourage others in your networks to believe in what is possible.

You don't have to go to a forum to engage

The plan is to hold forums around the country, but your engagement can begin whether or not we come to your town. Go to the national plan any time and choose an action. Or call or write, and let's talk about how you can implement the plan on your own or with any group you wish – your business, faith community, civic group, etc. There are 300 actions waiting for you to review and pick one, and we are always ready to brainstorm or hear ideas on what you want to do.

In the coming weeks, we will announce the site of our next forum, as we are in discussions with people in multiple regions of the country. We would love to discuss opportunities for you to bring a forum to your region or to [sponsor](#) any of our upcoming forums.

As someone who has battled poverty and overcome life's challenges, I know firsthand how important it is to have a community of support. Let's work together one day at a time to build a brighter future for all."

--Leo Delgado, forum panelist and participant

Leo's words capture the hope of those who know what it means to live in and rise out of poverty.

You can read what some of the Greater Washington Poverty Forum attendees had to say, including more from Leo, [here](#).

Sending my best - and hoping to hear from you soon -



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