

It is into this world that the poor have to venture if they are to receive the education, the employment, and the federal, state, and local aid that might lift them above the "poverty line."

What criterion was used by the Council of Economic Advisors in placing 22 million people below the poverty line in 1969? A family is classified as poor "if its income is insufficient to buy enough food, clothing, shelter, and health services to meet minimum requirements."

The Social Security Administration has developed a complicated, and not entirely satisfactory, measure of poverty based on such criteria as income, family size and composition, age of members, and whether a person is classified as farm or non-farm.

← For example, a single person not living on a farm is considered to be in poverty if his annual income is below \$1,635. A non-farm family of four is below the poverty line if its annual income is under \$3,335, whereas a farm family of the same size is considered poor if its annual income is under \$2,345.

A principal cause of poverty is the unemployment which afflicts persons who do not have adequate education or training to get jobs or who lack the means to get to available jobs. In other circumstances industries fail or lose ascendancy in the market and employees are released into a labor market where their skills are no longer needed.

Another cause of poverty is subemployment -- the situation in which individuals are either working too sporadically or for wages



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