

# Child-poverty expert to share expertise

- [Rick Olivo](#)
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John Wagner

In Ashland and Bayfield County, more than 20 percent of children live in poverty.

That is a stark reality that the Wisconsin End Child Poverty Campaign wants to do something about.

To that end, the Ashland/Bayfield League of Women Voters will host a presentation by John Wagner, chairman of the campaign in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties, about the experiences in his region.

Wagner is a retired chief engineer from Cray Research in Eau Claire who believes it imperative that we invest in youth who represent the next generation of leaders.

“I have had 10 years of experience teaching young adults who live in poverty and keenly appreciate the difficulties they live with,” he said. “This combined with my multiple interests in modern science that informs us about how poverty affects human development, have led to my strong interest in child poverty and the impacts poverty has on adult outcomes.”

Wagner said numerous studies in the past 30 years demonstrate that children who live in poverty are at greater risk of education challenges, health problems, lower future earnings and shortened life expectancy. He said investments in programs such as pre-kindergarten education, family supports, good nutrition and affordable health care and housing yield better adults. Costs for vocational training, unemployment, addiction treatment, incarceration, homelessness, and expensive health care are also reduced, he added.

The presentation is scheduled for March 7 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

*Information provided by the Ashland/Bayfield League of Women Voters.*