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Reducing poverty should be a policy priority, city and county leaders are told

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The Homeless Alliance of Western New York this morning called upon Mayor Byron Brown and County Executive Chris Collins to create a task force that would develop policies lifting people out of poverty.

"Poverty needs to be the lens through which we create all of our policies," said Bill O'Connell, executive director of the alliance.

O'Connell made his remarks at a news conference in which area lawmakers and community leaders discussed their participation in a poverty challenge earlier this week.

Nearly 30 percent of residents in Buffalo live at or below the federal poverty line of \$10,400 — making it the second most impoverished large city in the country, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

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