NOTE: Change all red text to local information. You can leave the quote from Rachel, but it will be more powerful if you attribute it to a local person. Feel free to adapt the wording in any way that fits. This is just a starting point.

Community called to action for poverty program

[INSERT CITY] - The Turning the Tide on Poverty program is seeking input from community members for the next step of a Study Circle program on [insert date].

Over the last five weeks, a community planning team has met to discuss poverty in [insert city] and possible solutions. Taking these locally gathered insights, the program’s Action Forum invites new community members to examine the planning team's ideas and begin collaborative work to implement new programs addressing poverty.

“The Action Forum aims to bring all Study Circle participants together in a community celebration designed to join the work of the individual circles to help guide community action,” said Rachel Welborn, program manager for the Southern Rural Development Center. “During this Forum, ideas for collective change will be shared, prioritized, and task forces will be organized. Your presence at the event would be greatly appreciated.”

Welborn explains that everyone in the community is invited to attend the Action Forum, whether or not he or she was involved in the Study Circles. “There is room at the table for everyone. Many valuable ideas will be presented, but it will take community members to make it happen,” Welborn said.

The Action Forum will take place on [date and time] at [location]. Participants can expect to hear highlighted themes and top priorities that emerged from the Study Circles, participate in a process to select priorities from the many ideas, and have the opportunity to sign up for an action group.

These discussions have been sponsored by [local partners], with funding and support through the Southern Rural Development Center, Everyday Democracy, the Farm Foundation, and the Kettering Foundation.

For more information about Turning the Tide on Poverty, visit http://srdc.msstate.edu/tide/ or call [contact and phone number].