



Atlanta Regional Housing Forum

“Confronting Suburban Poverty in America”

Wednesday, September 4, 2013 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Loudermilk Center, 40 Courtland Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

9:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:30 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**
Bill Bolling, Atlanta Community Food Bank

9:45 a.m. **Keynote Presentation**
Alan Berube, The Brookings Institution
Co-Author, *“Confronting Suburban Poverty in America”*

Panel Discussion on the Local Perspective



Kim Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Families First
Brian Lackey, Director, Planning & Development, Gwinnett County
Milton Little, President, United Way of Greater Atlanta

11:45 a.m. **Adjourn**

During the 2000s, for the first time, the number of poor people in major metropolitan suburbs surpassed the number in cities. While this has long been the case in the Atlanta region, the suburban poor population more than doubled in the last decade. By 2011, 88 percent of the metropolitan area’s poor lived in the suburbs.

Join us for a special presentation by **Alan Berube, of The Brookings Institution**, a co-author of *“Confronting Suburban Poverty in America.”*

Mr. Berube will share findings from the study as well as root causes, challenges and a proposed pathway forward.

Causes: The study identifies population growth – including that of poor immigrants – availability and distribution of affordable housing, location of jobs in relation to affordable housing, as well as the impact of the Great Recession.

Challenges: Addressing the issues related to the increase in suburban poverty will require attention to: access to and location of public transit systems; a thinly spread network of suburban safety net providers; lack of suburban philanthropic support; and more. Moreover, policies and programs that aim to improve neighborhoods, deliver services, and expand opportunity were not built with suburbs in mind and do not confront the lack of capacity, fragmentation,



THE DRIVERS OF SUBURBAN POVERTY

A number of factors help shape poverty trends over time:

1 Population Change

Percentage change in population, 2000 to 2010:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2 Immigration

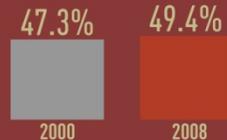
Share of suburban poor who are foreign born, 2000 and 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

3 Housing

Share of housing choice voucher households in suburbs, 2000 and 2008



Source: The Suburbanization of Housing Choice Voucher Recipients

4 The Economy

Unemployed population in suburbs, Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

and inefficient and inflexible funding sources that complicate responses to suburban poverty.

Path Forward: Innovative organizations in metro areas across the country are succeeding in the face of these challenges by achieving scale geographically and through the range of services and functions they provide; collaborating and integrating to overcome jurisdictional, programmatic, and sectoral fragmentation; and funding strategically by creating market-driven vehicles and creatively applying government and philanthropic support.

Modernizing the Metropolitan Opportunity Agenda: The book advances a near-term policy agenda that builds from successes in the field, and sets out a bolder, longer-term vision for systemic change in how federal policies address poverty and place and promote metropolitan opportunity.

To accelerate the move toward a 21st-century framework that promotes opportunity at the regional level over the long term, the book proposes a **Metropolitan Opportunity Challenge**. The Challenge would award federal funding totaling \$4 billion to states through a competitive application process based on their proposals to increase access to opportunity for low-income residents and places through scaled, collaborative, and flexibly funded solutions.

To hear more about the book, its findings, the proposed path forward, and how the Atlanta region is impacted, join us Wednesday, September 4, 2013 for the quarterly Atlanta Regional Housing Forum held at the Loudermilk Center for the Community.

For more details about the book, "Confronting Suburban Poverty In America," visit www.Brookings.edu.

The Forum is free, but registrants are asked to bring canned or nonperishable food items for donation to Atlanta Community Food Bank!

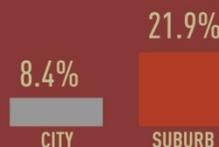
Register for the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum now:
www.AtlantaRegionalHousing.org/forum

THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUBURBAN POVERTY

Shifting poverty affects existing services and infrastructure like:

5 Schools

Percent Change in Low-Income Students 2005-06 to 2009-10



Source: U.S. Department of Education

6 Transit

Share of low-income suburbs with transit access, and share of metro jobs reachable via transit within 90 minutes, 2011



Source: Missed Opportunity