

Keeping Current

LANCASTER

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues February 15, 2007

FYI

THE GEOGRAPHY OF U.S. POVERTY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS –

Testifying before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, [Alan Berube](#), *Research Director and Fellow*, [Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution](#) outlined the challenges presented by **concentrated poverty and the increasing suburbanization of poverty**. [Click here](#) to read the full testimony.

The findings from a recent study, [Two Steps Back: City and Suburban Poverty Trends 1999-2005](#), conducted at the Brookings Institution found that **in 2005, 52 percent of metropolitan residents living below the poverty line were found in suburbs**, versus 48 percent in central cities.

URBAN EXPERTS: DAVID RUSK AND MYRON ORFIELD SPEAK IN YORK – In January [David Rusk](#) and [Myron Orfield](#) were invited to York in an event sponsored by Metro-York, a project of [York Counts](#) to discuss potential solutions to problems gripping the greater York area. [Metro-York](#) is a new task force set up to tackle the York metropolitan area's toughest problems. **Metro-York will promote ways to work across government boundaries** to improve the area's economy, educational system, and public safety.

At Mr. Rusk's presentation he suggested [ten steps](#) that should be taken to rejuvenate York City and to prevent the decline of its suburbs. Similar circumstances exist in Lancaster. [The Hourglass Foundation](#) with the assistance of the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) have **compared the suggestions for York to what is or is not occurring here in Lancaster**. [Click here to view the summary](#).

Myron Orfield painted a familiar picture of a **region troubled by a segmented government system**. York County's 72 municipalities are competing with each other in a single housing and employment market. He called upon municipalities to consider **revenue sharing** – to pool a portion of its local taxes; the **creation of a regional school** or a few, to draw children of a variety of races and economic backgrounds and for **legislation encouraging or requiring developers to build affordable housing** as part of larger projects. [Click here to read more.....](#)

VOTERS BELIEVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE FREED TO SOLVE JOINT PROBLEMS, BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIES – This is a key [finding](#) of a statewide [survey](#) released on February 1st by the [Campaign to Renew Pennsylvania](#) (RenewPA), a coalition designed to advance solutions for Pennsylvania's fiscal, governance and public investment issues. Overwhelmingly, **voters believe that local governments should be allowed and encouraged to work closer together**. Voters recognize the need to coordinate, to deliver quality basic services and on planning and development issues, including transportation, economic growth and the protection of open space.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities, February 8-10, 2007, Los Angeles – [For more information](#).

[DEP Accepting Applications for Watershed Restoration and Protection Grants](#) - Deadline to apply April 13th.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

[Aging Suburban Communities Cope With Urban Problems](#) - The older suburbs around Richmond, Virginia -- and many other cities around the country -- can no longer count on being immune to poverty, crime and under performing schools that has long affected the urban core.

[Act 1: Who Wins, Who Loses?](#) [Commonwealth Foundation](#) Provides Guide to Gov. Rendell's Property Tax Relief Act

[Incorporating Sustainability Into Community Development](#) – The future of cities and towns and villages must be something that is deliberately created through public choice. Sustainable development is about continuity.

[Little Boxes – Limited Horizons](#) - A study by David Rusk of local governance in Pennsylvania; its scope, consequences and reforms.

*Enabling informed growth management
decision-making for Lancaster County*

Call our office (717) 295-0755, or visit <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org>

HOURGLASS
H
FOUNDATION