

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues August 1, 2007

FYI

IMPORTANT ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Lack of inter-municipal coordination and cooperation
- A changing employment base and a dearth of jobs paying a living wage
- Out-migration of young people
- An aging population
- The need for workforce development
- An inequitable local tax structure

STRENGTHENING RURAL PENNSYLVANIA -

[Strengthening Rural Pennsylvania: An Integrated Approach to a Prosperous Commonwealth](#) is a [brief](#) from [The Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program](#) developed to shed light on the problems and opportunities confronting the more rural parts of the state.

To better understand the challenges and opportunities confronting rural Pennsylvania, a team of researchers from [Pennsylvania State University](#) (PSU) conducted five listening sessions in rural communities across the Commonwealth. In these discussions, participants were asked to focus on three topics: 1) issues that are most important to the prosperity of their community; 2) the assets and opportunities available to address these issues; and 3) policies that would enable residents to take advantage of such assets and opportunities.

The brief outlines how place-based development frameworks point to a new direction for rural policy in Pennsylvania. Strategies which focus on particular segments of the economy are incapable of addressing the broad array of forces that determine the quality of life in all communities. A place-based approach embraces this complexity and enables communities and regions to identify unique local assets that can be used to foster sustained growth and development.

HOUSING'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION OBJECTIVES – A new set of resources from the [Center for Housing Policy and Enterprise Community Partners](#) collects and analyzes available research evidence that frames the many ways in which our homes and the neighborhoods where we live may affect health and educational outcomes. Some of these connections have been well-documented through years of rigorous study, while others need further examination. The links are identified and the related research is presented to increase understanding of the ways in which housing policy can be designed to enrich the lives of children and families. Read the research summaries, [The Positive Impacts of Affordable Housing on Health](#) and [The Positive Impacts of Affordable Housing on Education](#).

INTERESTING ARTICLES

[2007 Pennsylvania Economic Competitiveness ScoreCard](#) – From the [Pennsylvania Chamber Foundation](#) a nationwide comparison that benchmarks Pennsylvania's economic growth and prosperity against the other 49 states.

[Why Universities Should Engage In Community Development](#) - Columnist Neal Peirce of the Seattle Times highlights the University of Pennsylvania's efforts at improving its Philadelphia neighborhood -- and the resulting improvements for Town and Gown.

[Low-Income Residents Migrating From Cities In Search Of Public Housing](#) - Low-income families from northern New Jersey are taking their vouchers and seeking lower cost-of-living communities in Pennsylvania, specifically Altoona and Williamsport -- sometimes with the encouragement of public housing officials. Migrants cite health and safety as a major consideration as well as a shortage of decent affordable housing in their own communities.

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decision-making for Lancaster County*
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