The Changing Landscape of Poverty and Opportunity in the United States

Metropolitan Policy Program
at BROOKINGS

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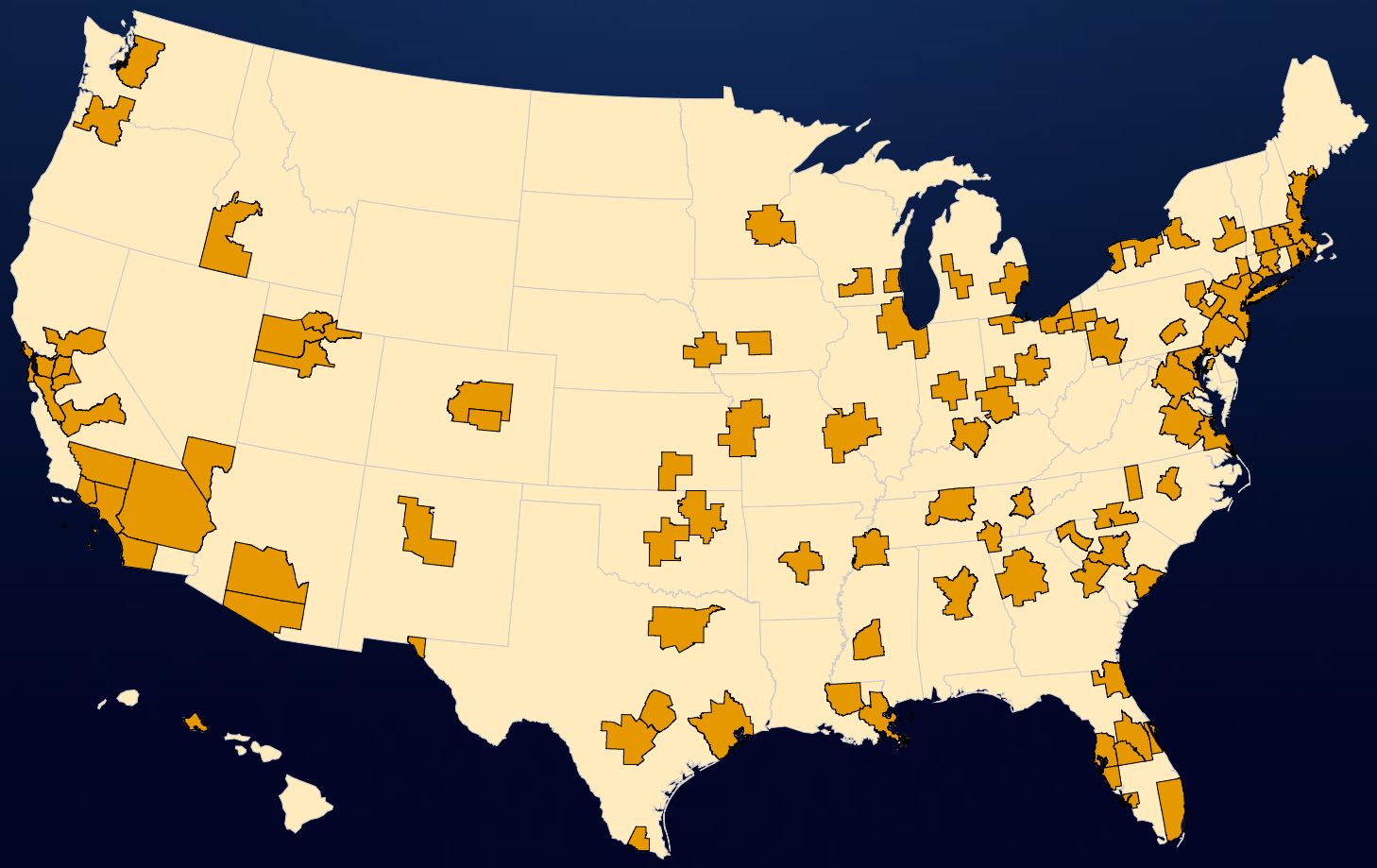
The shift to a **majority-minority** population is happening faster than expected

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

More than 1 in 3 residents—
107 million people—live below
twice the federal poverty line

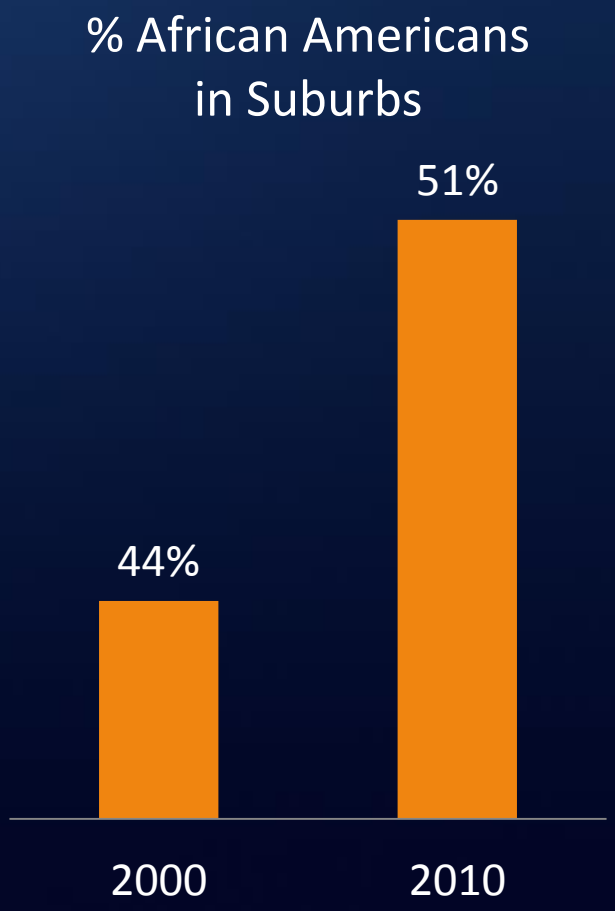
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The fastest growth in recent years occurred in the nation's 100 largest metro areas, which account for two-thirds of the population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As suburbs have grown they have become increasingly diverse



Source: Brookings Institution analysis of Census 2000 data

Source: Frey, "Melting Pot Cities and Suburbs" (2011)

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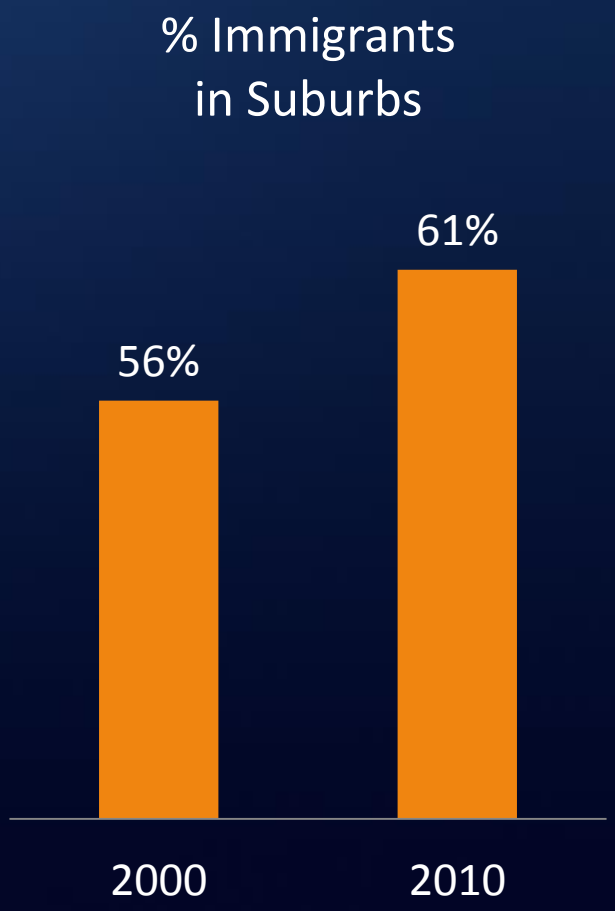

Source: Brookings State of Metropolitan America Indicator Map

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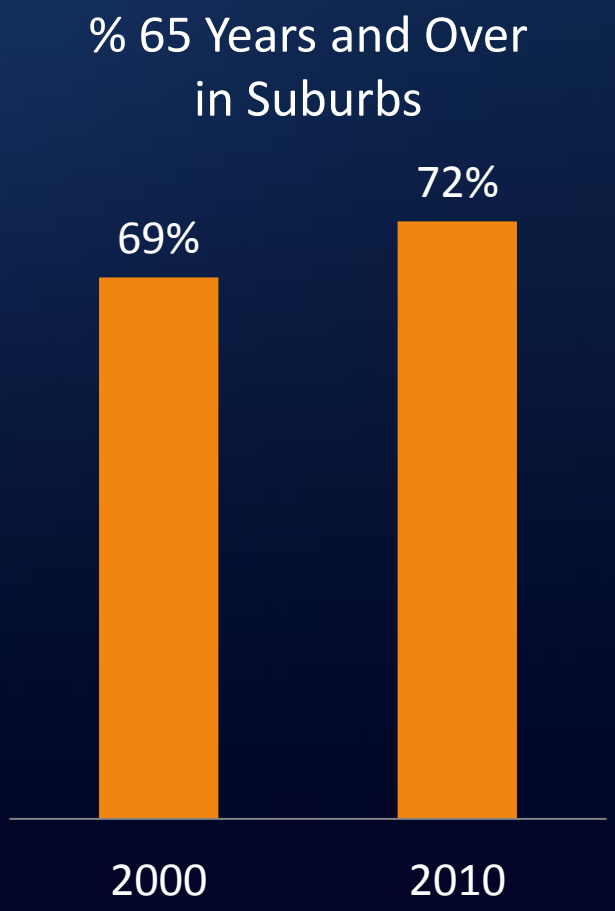
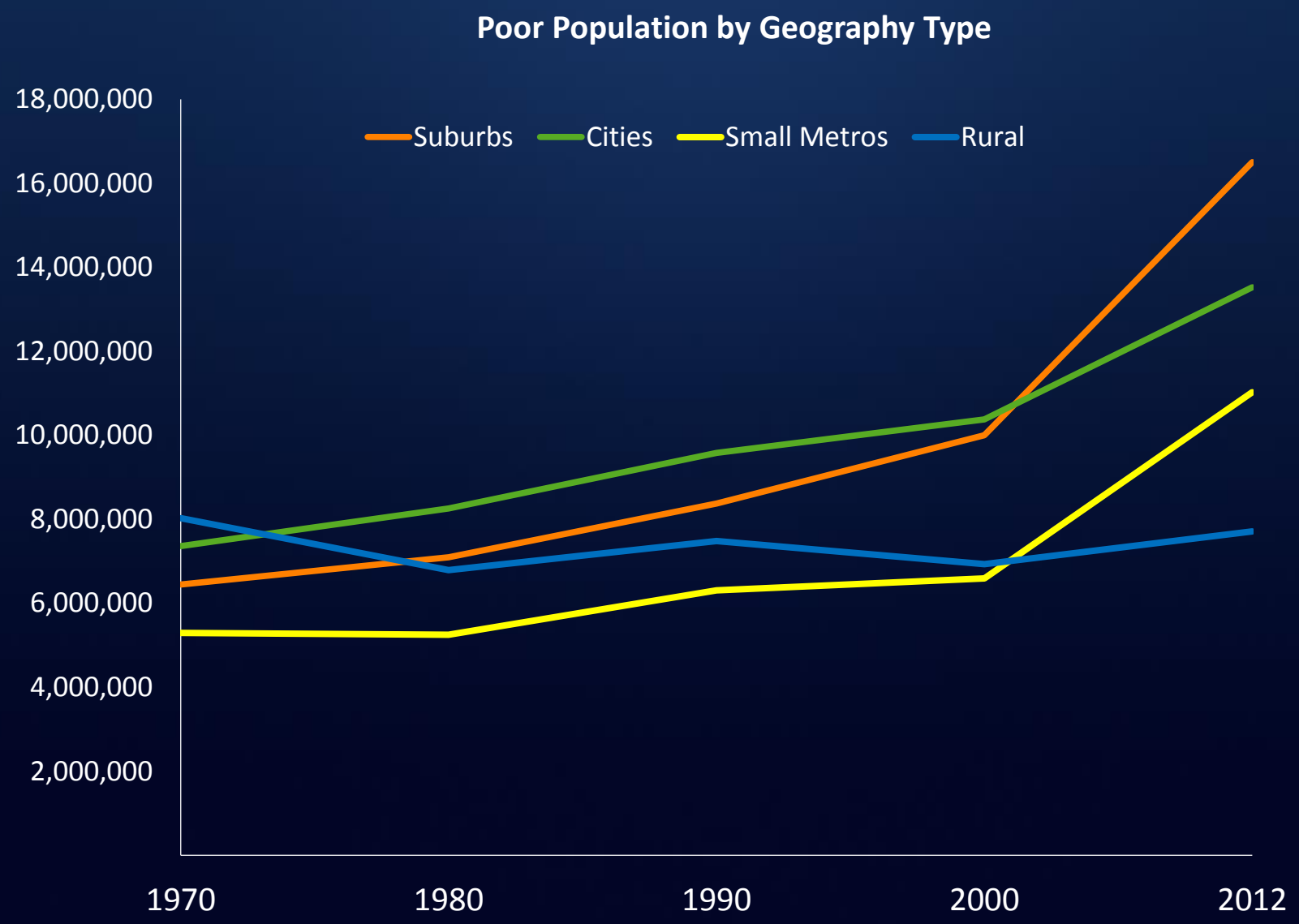


Source: Brookings Institution analysis of Census 2000 data

Source: Brookings State of Metropolitan America Indicator Map

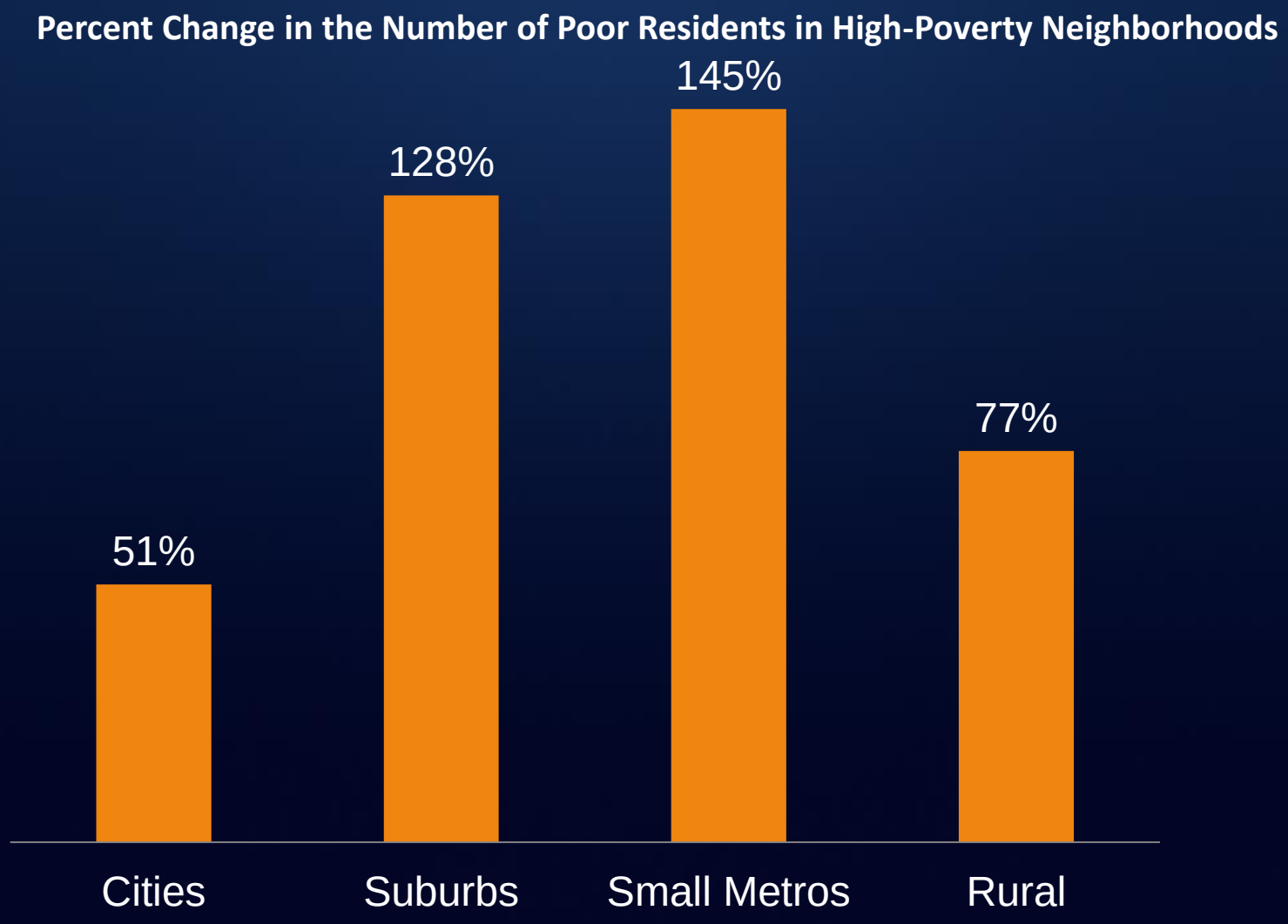
Today, suburbs are home to the largest poor population



NOTE: The federal poverty threshold for a family of four was $23,492 in 2012

Source: Brookings analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data

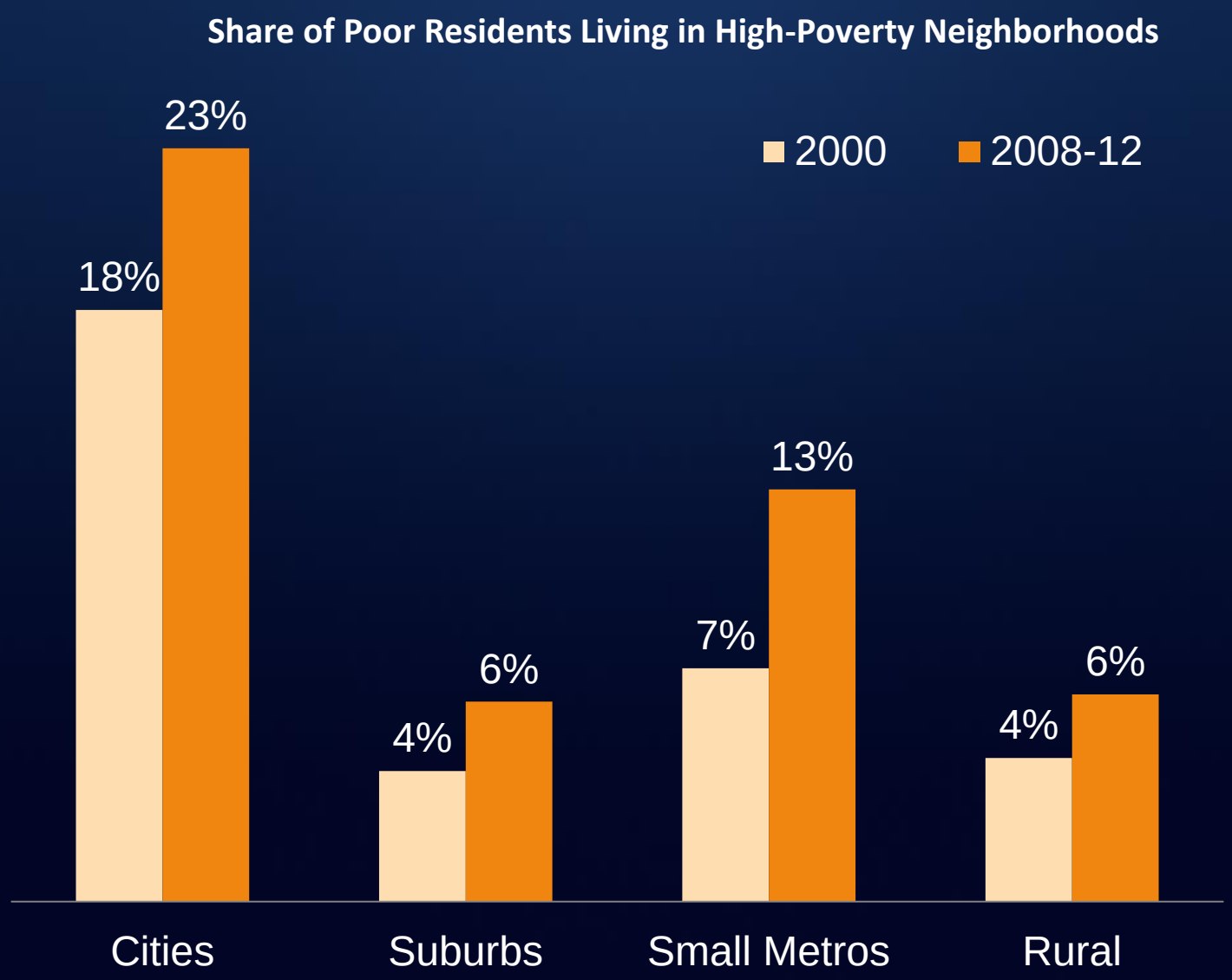
Even as poverty has spread it has become more concentrated



NOTE: High-Poverty neighborhoods are census tracts with poverty rates of 40% or more.

Source: Brookings analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data

And the challenges of concentrated disadvantage have spread to more places



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Source: Brookings analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data

Many factors drive the shifting geography of poverty

Population Change

Immigration

Housing

Job Location

Regional Economy

Suburban poverty brings added challenges

Transit Access

Strained Local Services

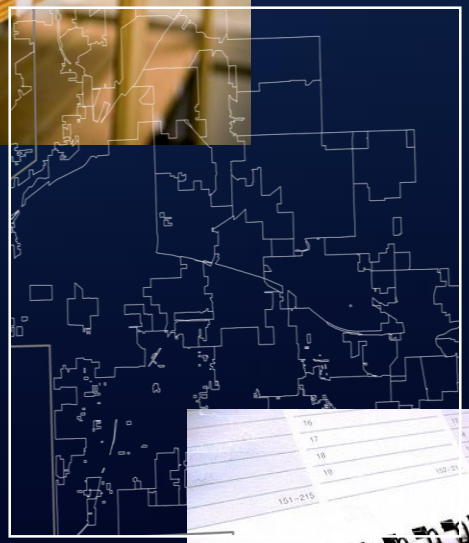
Limited Philanthropic Resources

Change in School Populations

Suburbs face additional challenges

Lack of Capacity

Extensive Fragmentation



Inflexible, Unreliable Funding

The legacy system of place-based anti-poverty programs developed over decades does not map easily onto the suburban landscape

$82 billion
81 federal programs
10 agencies

Housing

Emergency Food and Shelter Program; Tenant-based Rental Assistance; Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program; Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency; Housing Counseling Assistance

Food Assistance

Child and Adult Care Food Program; The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); Summer Food Service Program; Commodity Supplemental Food Program; WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

Social Services

Substance Abuse Treatment Block Grant; Social Services Block Grant; Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant; Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHSBG); Access to Recovery (ATR)

Health

Consolidated Health Centers (Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless, Public Housing Primary Care, and School Based Health Centers); Affordable Care Act (ACA) Grants for Capital Development in Health Centers; Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

Job Training

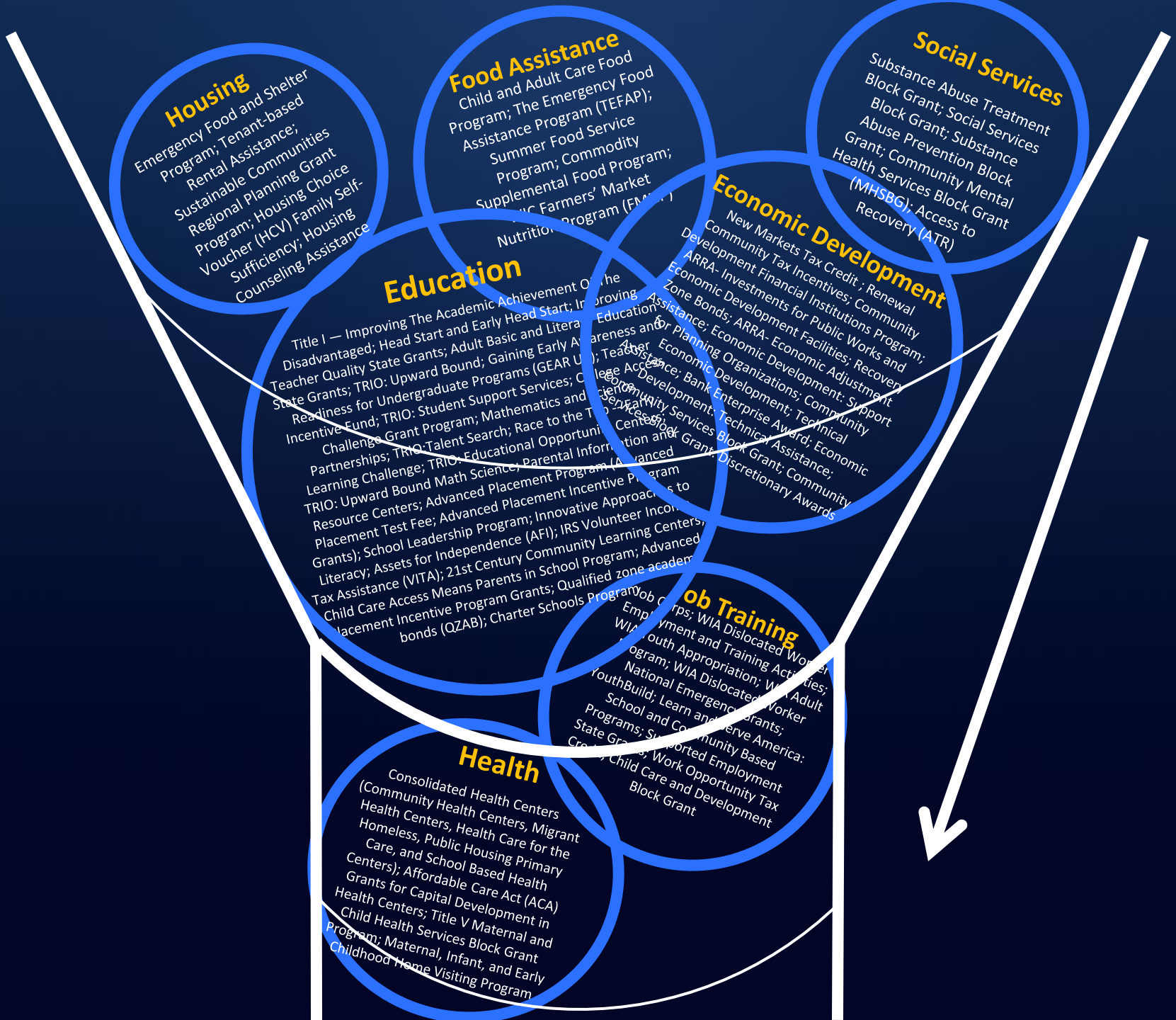
Job Corps; WIA Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities; WIA Youth Appropriation; WIA Adult Program; WIA Dislocated Worker National Emergency Grants; YouthBuild; Learn and Serve America: School and Community Based Programs; Supported Employment State Grants; Work Opportunity Tax Credit; Child Care and Development Block Grant

Education

Title I — Improving The Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged; Head Start and Early Head Start; Improving Teacher Quality State Grants; Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants; TRIO: Upward Bound; Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP); Teacher Incentive Fund; TRIO: Student Support Services; College Access Challenge Grant Program; Mathematics and Science Partnerships; TRIO:Talent Search; Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge; TRIO: Educational Opportunity Centers; TRIO: Upward Bound Math Science; Parental Information and Resource Centers; Advanced Placement Program (Advanced Placement Test Fee; Advanced Placement Incentive Program Grants); School Leadership Program; Innovative Approaches to Literacy; Assets for Independence (AFI); IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA); 21st Century Community Learning Centers; Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program; Advanced Placement Incentive Program Grants; Qualified zone academy bonds (QZAB); Charter Schools Program

Economic Development

New Markets Tax Credit ; Renewal Community Tax Incentives; Community Development Financial Institutions Program; ARRA- Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities; Recovery Zone Bonds; ARRA- Economic Adjustment Assistance; Economic Development: Support for Planning Organizations; Community Economic Development; Technical Assistance; Bank Enterprise Award; Economic Development: Technical Assistance; Community Services Block Grant; Community Services Block Grant: Discretionary Awards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Achieve Scale

Collaborate and Integrate

Fund Strategically

You can find additional resources and sign up for updates on suburban poverty research and best practices on the book's website:

www.ConfrontingSuburbanPoverty.org

ekneebone@brookings.edu

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