The Changing Landscape of Poverty and Opportunity in the United States
The shift to a *majority-minority* population is happening faster than expected
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

% African Americans in Suburbs

- 44% in 2000
- 51% in 2010

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of Census 2000 data

Source: Frey, “Melting Pot Cities and Suburbs” (2011)
As suburbs have grown they have become increasingly diverse.

Source: Brookings State of Metropolitan America Indicator Map
As suburbs have grown they have become increasingly diverse

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

Poor Population by Geography Type

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

Percent Change in the Number of Poor Residents in High-Poverty Neighborhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburbs</td>
<td>128%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Metros</td>
<td>145%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Share of Poor Residents Living in High-Poverty Neighborhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2008-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburbs</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Metros</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

**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

**Job Training**
- Job Corps
- WIA Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities
- WIA Youth Appropriation
- WIA Adult Program
- WIA Dislocated Worker Program
- 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 Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- College Access Incentive Fund
- TRIO: Student Support Services
- Mathematics and Science Challenge Grant Program
- Race to the Top — Early Partnerships
- TRIO: Talent Search
- TRIO: Educational Opportunity Centers
- Learning Challenge
- TRIO: Educational Opportunity Centers
- TRIO: Upward Bound Math Science
- Parental Information and Services
- Advanced Resource Centers
- Advanced Placement Program
- Placement Test Fee
- Advanced Placement Incentive Program
- School Leadership Program
- Innovative Approaches to Grants
- Assets for Independence (AFI)
- IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Advanced Child Care Access Incentive Program Grants
- Qualified zone academy bonds (QZAB)
- Charter Schools Program

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

**Economic Development**
- New Markets Tax Credit
- Renewal Community Tax Incentives
- Community Development Financial Institutions Program
- ARRA: Investments for Public Works and Economic Development
- 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
- Economic Services Block Grant
- Community Services Block Grant: Discretionary Awards

$82 billion
81 federal programs
10 agencies
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