

## FACTSHEET: SUBURBAN CHICAGO

This report examines data from the Census Bureau, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and a new survey of social services providers in suburban communities surrounding three major metropolitan areas (Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; and Washington, D.C.) to assess the challenges that rising suburban poverty poses for local safety nets and community-based organizations. Consistent with what metropolitan areas nationwide have experienced as they cope with the long-term impact of the Great Recession, it finds in metropolitan Chicago that:

- Poverty rates remained low in most parts of suburban Chicago, yet nearly all suburbs saw significant increases in the number of poor people at the end of the decade. Although poverty rates fell in a handful of suburban municipalities, it was much more common for suburban Chicago communities to have experienced more than 50 percent increases in the number of poor residents since 2000.
- Many suburban communities in metropolitan Chicago rely on relatively few social services organizations that must stretch operations across much larger service delivery areas than their urban counterparts. Consistent with findings in other metropolitan areas, almost forty percent of suburban Chicago nonprofits surveyed reported operating in more than one suburban county, and nearly two-thirds offered services in more than one suburban municipality. The size and capacity of the nonprofit social service sector varies widely across suburbs, from 469 poor residents per nonprofit provider in DuPage County to 1,104 in Will County. Where one lives in the suburbs, therefore, may greatly affect one's access to certain types of help.
- In the wake of the Great Recession, demand is up significantly for the typical suburban provider, and almost two-thirds (64 percent) of suburban Chicago nonprofits interviewed are seeing more clients with no previous connection to safety net programs. Needs have changed as well, with more than 70 percent of suburban nonprofits surveyed seeing families with food needs more often than one year prior, and nearly 60 percent reporting more frequent requests for help with mortgage or rent payments. Most nonprofits reported referring clients to other providers as a way to cope with rising demand for assistance.
- More than half of suburban Chicago nonprofits surveyed (55 percent) reported a loss in a key revenue source last year, with more funding cuts anticipated in the year to come. Due in large part to this bleak fiscal situation, one in four suburban nonprofits has reduced services available since the start of the recession. About 30 percent of nonprofits have laid off full-time and part-time staff as a result of lost program grants or to reduce operating costs.

Suburbs were home to a large and fast-growing poor population in the 2000s, yet few of the suburban communities studied have a social services infrastructure in place to address the challenges of increasing poverty. The Great Recession has exacerbated this gap between demand and capacity in the suburbs, as nonprofit social service providers have been increasingly asked to help rising numbers of low-income families but with tighter budgets and fewer resources. As is true for cities and rural places, the nonprofit social service sector in suburbs can help these communities alleviate the worst economic and social impacts of the current downturn and future increases in poverty. Promoting stronger region-wide providers and better engaging charitable foundations in metropolitan safety net planning represent important strategies for strengthening suburban social services infrastructure.

### LOCAL CONTACTS

**The following local contacts are available to discuss suburban poverty and challenges facing suburban safety nets. Each has received the report in advance.**

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Demographic Data for Select Counties and Municipalities in Metropolitan Chicago, 2000 and 2006-08																		
County/Municipality	Population Data (2000)				Population Data (2006-08)				Number of Poor			Poverty Rate		Number of Unemployed			Unemployment Rate	
	Population	White	Black	Hispanic	Population	White	Black	Hispanic	2000	2006-08	%Change	2000	2006-08	2000	2006-08	%Change	2000	2006-08
<b>Cook County</b>	5,376,741	56.3%	26.0%	19.9%	5,278,738	52.9%	25.4%	22.8%	713,040	766,010	7.4%	13.5%	14.8%	197,487	222,556	12.7%	4.8%	5.4%
City of Chicago	2,896,016	42.0%	36.8%	26.0%	2,725,206	39.9%	34.6%	27.8%	556,791	551,610	-0.9%	19.6%	20.7%	137,421	132,427	-3.6%	6.2%	6.2%
Cicero	85,616	48.3%	1.1%	77.4%	84,812	27.4%	3.4%	84.1%	13,187	14,590	10.6%	15.5%	17.3%	3,230	3,925	21.5%	5.5%	6.8%
Arlington Heights	76,031	90.6%	1.0%	4.5%	77,784	87.3%	1.6%	4.9%	1,878	3,325	77.1%	2.5%	4.3%	992	1,698	71.2%	1.6%	2.8%
Evanston	74,239	65.2%	22.5%	6.1%	73,181	66.2%	19.2%	8.9%	7,518	6,224	-17.2%	11.1%	9.4%	2,859	2,151	-24.8%	4.7%	3.6%
Hoffman Estates	49,495	74.4%	4.4%	10.5%	51,196	64.3%	4.4%	14.4%	2,204	2,662	20.8%	4.4%	5.2%	873	1,580	81.0%	2.3%	4.0%
Skokie	63,348	68.9%	4.5%	5.7%	68,423	65.3%	7.8%	6.9%	3,380	5,095	50.7%	5.4%	7.6%	1,269	2,253	77.5%	2.5%	4.1%
Schaumburg	75,386	78.8%	3.4%	5.3%	73,450	73.7%	3.1%	8.6%	2,209	3,630	64.3%	3.0%	5.0%	1,400	1,712	22.3%	2.3%	2.9%
<b>DuPage County</b>	904,161	83.9%	3.0%	9.0%	927,410	80.6%	4.4%	12.2%	32,163	45,915	42.8%	3.6%	5.0%	16,042	26,465	65.0%	2.3%	3.7%
Naperville	128,358	85.2%	3.0%	3.2%	145,235	79.5%	4.2%	6.0%	2,809	4,794	70.7%	2.2%	3.4%	1,849	2,656	43.6%	2.0%	2.5%
Wheaton	55,416	89.8%	2.8%	3.7%	53,730	89.7%	3.6%	4.2%	1,847	2,305	24.8%	3.6%	4.7%	1,029	1,118	8.6%	2.4%	2.6%
Downers Grove	48,724	90.1%	1.9%	3.6%	48,565	88.3%	2.5%	5.1%	1,096	1,468	33.9%	2.3%	3.1%	733	1,047	42.8%	1.9%	2.7%
Lombard	42,322	87.0%	2.7%	4.8%	44,129	80.0%	5.7%	8.9%	1,560	1,247	-20.1%	3.8%	2.9%	1,055	1,341	27.1%	3.2%	3.7%
Elmhurst	42,762	93.4%	0.9%	4.0%	43,835	90.4%	1.1%	6.3%	1,041	1,678	61.2%	2.5%	4.0%	632	870	37.7%	1.9%	2.6%
<b>Kane County</b>	404,119	79.1%	5.7%	23.7%	497,667	76.5%	5.5%	28.1%	26,587	41,003	54.2%	6.7%	8.4%	9,780	15,339	56.8%	3.3%	4.2%
Elgin	94,487	70.5%	6.8%	34.3%	107,027	64.8%	7.3%	42.9%	7,414	11,482	54.9%	8.1%	10.9%	2,864	3,579	25.0%	4.1%	4.5%
Aurora	142,990	68.1%	11.1%	32.6%	175,074	61.5%	11.1%	36.9%	12,034	19,479	61.9%	8.5%	11.3%	4,202	5,759	37.1%	4.1%	4.6%
Carpentersville	30,586	68.8%	4.2%	40.6%	37,210	66.3%	3.6%	48.6%	2,578	3,013	16.9%	8.5%	8.1%	851	1,223	43.7%	4.0%	4.8%
St. Charles	27,896	93.8%	1.7%	5.5%	33,491	91.2%	1.5%	9.5%	925	1,966	112.5%	3.4%	6.0%	350	584	66.9%	1.6%	2.2%
Batavia	23,866	93.2%	2.4%	5.3%	26,735	90.0%	5.0%	5.0%	836	1,388	66.0%	3.6%	5.2%	286	867	203.1%	1.7%	4.5%
<b>Lake County</b>	644,356	80.1%	6.8%	14.4%	706,864	77.8%	6.5%	19.1%	35,714	44,216	23.8%	5.7%	6.4%	13,957	24,008	72.0%	2.9%	4.5%
Waukegan	87,901	50.1%	19.2%	44.8%	86,432	49.5%	18.3%	52.2%	12,058	10,501	-12.9%	13.9%	12.5%	4,134	4,696	13.6%	6.5%	7.4%
Buffalo Grove	42,909	88.7%	0.8%	3.3%	42,644	84.2%	0.6%	4.7%	960	892	-7.1%	2.3%	2.1%	498	852	71.1%	1.6%	2.5%
Wheeling	34,496	76.7%	2.4%	20.7%	35,924	70.3%	2.7%	30.0%	1,803	3,342	85.4%	5.3%	9.3%	530	1,210	128.3%	2.0%	4.2%
Gurnee	28,834	82.1%	5.1%	6.0%	32,046	72.0%	7.4%	11.0%	867	1,500	73.0%	3.0%	4.7%	358	926	158.7%	1.7%	3.8%
Mundelein	30,935	78.7%	1.6%	24.2%	31,834	73.0%	1.9%	29.9%	1,395	1,311	-6.0%	4.6%	4.2%	480	1,424	196.7%	2.2%	5.8%
<b>McHenry County</b>	260,077	94.0%	0.6%	7.5%	314,112	90.1%	1.1%	10.9%	9,446	17,602	86.3%	3.7%	5.6%	4,856	10,034	106.6%	2.6%	4.2%
Crystal Lake	38,000	94.1%	0.6%	7.0%	41,970	90.8%	1.7%	11.2%	1,324	2,126	60.6%	3.5%	5.1%	703	1,340	90.6%	2.6%	4.3%
Lake in the Hills	23,152	91.6%	1.5%	6.3%	28,235	88.6%	0.6%	10.2%	503	795	58.1%	2.1%	2.8%	388	698	79.9%	2.4%	3.5%
McHenry	21,501	94.2%	0.3%	7.1%	25,764	84.4%	1.0%	NA	975	2,655	172.3%	4.6%	10.3%	315	927	194.3%	2.0%	4.7%
Woodstock	20,151	87.5%	1.1%	19.0%	22,653	85.2%	1.9%	21.5%	1,431	2,238	56.4%	7.2%	10.0%	445	947	112.8%	2.9%	5.4%
<b>Will County</b>	502,266	81.8%	10.3%	8.7%	669,317	77.8%	10.6%	14.4%	24,225	39,744	64.1%	4.9%	6.0%	11,318	21,453	89.5%	3.1%	4.3%
Joliet	106,221	69.3%	18.2%	18.4%	144,162	68.9%	16.2%	26.4%	10,946	15,266	39.5%	10.8%	10.8%	3,267	5,473	67.5%	4.2%	5.2%
Romeoville	21,153	84.5%	5.4%	13.1%	38,968	71.6%	10.6%	29.9%	387	2,348	506.7%	1.9%	6.3%	520	1,411	171.3%	3.3%	4.9%
Plainfield	13,038	95.9%	0.8%	3.9%	36,393	84.2%	4.9%	11.1%	229	694	203.1%	1.8%	2.0%	281	1,024	264.4%	3.0%	4.1%
Park Forest	23,462	55.4%	39.4%	5.0%	25,016	37.7%	55.1%	6.0%	1,514	2,997	98.0%	6.7%	12.1%	644	1,004	55.9%	3.6%	5.3%
New Lenox	17,771	97.7%	0.3%	3.2%	25,002	NA	NA	NA	424	773	82.3%	2.4%	3.1%	177	777	339.0%	1.4%	4.3%

Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey; 2000 Census, SF1 & SF3

Note: Unemployment statistics are based on civilians over the age of 16 years in the labor force; NA - Data not available