



# Metropolitan Policy Program

at BROOKINGS

## About Brookings

Founded in 1916, the Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations that advance three broad goals:

- Strengthen American democracy;
- Foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans and
- Secure a more open, safe, prosperous and cooperative international system.

## About the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program

Created in 1996, the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program provides decision makers with timely trend analysis, cutting-edge research and policy ideas for improving the health and prosperity of cities and metropolitan areas.

The program is based on a simple premise: The United States is a metropolitan nation. Metropolitan areas are home to 83 percent of the U.S. population, 85 percent of the nation's jobs and 92 percent of all college graduates. They are our hubs of research and innovation, our centers of human capital, and our gateways of trade and immigration. They are, in short, the drivers of our economy, and American competitiveness depends on their vitality.

Our work is designed to help metropolitan areas (and the cities and suburbs within them) adapt to rapid economic, demographic, and technological changes and ultimately achieve three goals that are central for success in the new global order:

- *Productive growth* that boosts innovation and entrepreneurship, generates quality jobs and rising incomes, and helps the U.S. maintain its economic leadership;
- *Inclusive growth* that expands educational and employment opportunities, reduces poverty, and fosters a strong and diverse middle class; and
- *Sustainable growth* that strengthens existing cities and communities, conserves fiscal and natural resources, and advances U.S. efforts to address climate change and achieve energy independence.

To help metro areas, and thereby the nation, prosper, the Metro program focuses on leveraging the unique roles of federal, state and local actors, with the private sector. Our work is also increasingly informed by lessons learned from metro areas and nations abroad.