During the 2000s, for the first time, the number of poor people in major metropolitan suburbs surpassed the number in cities. While this has long been the case in the Atlanta region, the suburban poor population more than doubled in the last decade. By 2011, 88 percent of the metropolitan area’s poor lived in the suburbs.

Join us for a special presentation by Alan Berube, of The Brookings Institution, a co-author of “Confronting Suburban Poverty in America.”

Mr. Berube will share findings from the study as well as root causes, challenges and a proposed pathway forward.

Causes: The study identifies population growth – including that of poor immigrants – availability and distribution of affordable housing, location of jobs in relation to affordable housing, as well as the impact of the Great Recession.

Challenges: Addressing the issues related to the increase in suburban poverty will require attention to: access to and location of public transit systems; a thinly spread network of suburban safety net providers; lack of suburban philanthropic support; and more. Moreover, policies and programs that aim to improve neighborhoods, deliver services, and expand opportunity were not built with suburbs in mind and do not confront the lack of capacity, fragmentation,
and inefficient and inflexible funding sources that complicate responses to suburban poverty.

**Path Forward:** Innovative organizations in metro areas across the country are succeeding in the face of these challenges by achieving scale geographically and through the range of services and functions they provide; collaborating and integrating to overcome jurisdictional, programmatic, and sectoral fragmentation; and funding strategically by creating market-driven vehicles and creatively applying government and philanthropic support.

**Modernizing the Metropolitan Opportunity Agenda:** The book advances a near-term policy agenda that builds from successes in the field, and sets out a bolder, longer-term vision for systemic change in how federal policies address poverty and place and promote metropolitan opportunity.

To accelerate the move toward a 21st-century framework that promotes opportunity at the regional level over the long term, the book proposes a **Metropolitan Opportunity Challenge**. The Challenge would award federal funding totaling $4 billion to states through a competitive application process based on their proposals to increase access to opportunity for low-income residents and places through scaled, collaborative, and flexibly funded solutions.

To hear more about the book, its findings, the proposed path forward, and how the Atlanta region is impacted, join us Wednesday, September 4, 2013 for the quarterly Atlanta Regional Housing Forum held at the Loudermilk Center for the Community.


**The Forum is free, but registrants are asked to bring canned or nonperishable food items for donation to Atlanta Community Food Bank!**

**Register for the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum now:**
www.AtlantaRegionalHousing.org/forum