



Timetable

The following time table is a suggestion for the flow of work. Final dates will be determined by the citizen partners and the PPA steering committee.

- On **August 28, 2006** the PPA will release its interim report and hold a volunteer fair for Athenians to support efforts dealing with the consequences of poverty.
- By **Fall of 2006** the PPA intends to identify a series of recommendations designed to break the cycle of poverty in Athens. These recommendations will be submitted to the five co-conveners for implementation.
- By **February of 2007** the Partnership will identify and implement a long term strategy for continuing the collaboration and monitoring the implementation strategies.

Contact

For more information please contact Joe Whorton at jwhorton@uga.edu 706 542-7553 or contact Sandy Christopher at schristopher@fanning.uga.edu 706 542-8905.

The Partnership meets on the fourth Monday of the month.

Please see our website at www.prosperousathens.org to sign up for subcommittees, get information about past meetings and find out about upcoming meetings.

PARTNERS FOR A PROSPEROUS ATHENS STEERING COMMITTEE

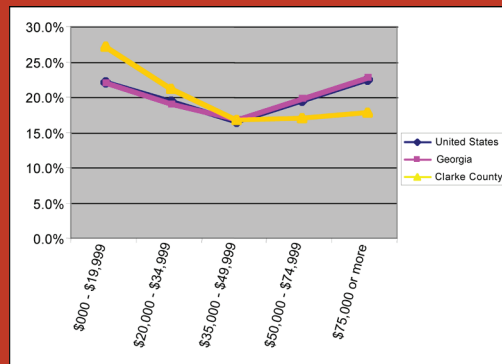
- Steve Jones, Chair**
Judge, ACC Superior Court
- Red Petrovs, Vice-Chair**
President, CSS Consulting
- Heidi Davison, Co-Convenor**
Mayor, Athens-Clarke County
- Lewis Holloway, Co-Convenor**
Superintendent of Education, Clarke County School District
- Larry McKinney, Co-Convenor**
President, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
- Pat Allen, Co-Convenor**
Director of Community Relations, UGA
- Tim Johnson, Co-Convenor**
Director, Family Connection
- Juanita Johnson Bailey**
Professor, Lifelong Education & Administration Policy, UGA
- Heather Benham**
Athens Land Trust
- Lisa Caine**
Pastor, Oconee Street Methodist Church
- Virginia Day**
Vice President – Mission Services, St. Mary’s Hospital
- Diane Dunston**
Athens Neighborhood Health Center
- Vivian Fisher**
Associate Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, UGA
- Beth Gavrilles**
Athens Grow Green Coalition, Institute of Ecology, UGA
- Clay Gilbert**
President, Thornton Bros
- Ed Graham**
Board Chair, Athens Chamber of Commerce
- Winfred Hope**
Reverend, Ebenezer Baptist Church West
- Cassandra Hunter**
K Hunter Consulting Group
- Monica Knight**
Director, Student Achievement & Educational Equity, Clarke County School District
- Jack Lumpkin**
Chief, Athens-Clarke County Police Department
- Margarita Martin**
Director, Oasis Católica Santa Rafaela
- Angie Moon de Avila**
Early Head Start Coordinator, Clarke County School District
- Rick Parker**
Executive Director, Athens Housing Authority
- Latosha Pittard**
Administrative Assistant, Supplies & Materials, UGA
- Jennifer Richardson**
Athens Neighborhood Health Center
- Tom Rodgers**
Chairman, Habitat for Humanity, Housing & Consumer Economics, UGA
- Lewis Shropshire**
President, Motel Enterprises
- James Shrum**
Administrative Director of Nursing, Athens Regional Medical Center
- Howard Stroud**
Associate Superintendent (Ret.), Clarke County School District
- Terry Tellefson**
Executive Director, Advantage Behavioral Health
- Flora Tydings**
President, Athens Area Technical College
- Brian Williams**
Professor, Public Administration & Policy, UGA
- Tracey Woods**
ACC Leisure Services, East Athens Community Center



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Income Distribution in ACC

There are sharp contrasts in how income is distributed in Clarke County and Georgia/United States. Athens lags behind both the state and the nation.



Some facts about Athens-Clarke County

- ACC lags behind the state average on many educational measures.
- ACC is a “housing-stress” county.
- Weekly wages for ACC are \$104 less than the Georgia average.
- 1 in 4 kids live in poverty.
- ACC’s 50 percent poverty rate (16.8 percent) is the highest in Georgia.
- 39.3 percent, or 36,000 citizens, live below the 150 percent poverty rate.

What do we know?

- The poor face challenges in acquiring marketable skills.
- There is a shortage of affordable housing.
- Childcare options are limited.
- For too many, healthcare is available only through the emergency room.
- A culture of poverty persists and is passed from one generation to the next.
- The poor are one crisis from chaos.
- We know for many there is poverty of:
 - » Wealth
 - » Knowledge
 - » Self-worth
 - » Hope
- High levels of poverty are a drag on the economy and limit competitiveness.

We know that the only way out of poverty is through the opportunity for full participation in the economy. That participation can only come through collaboration between public resources, private industry and all members of the community.

Partners for a Prosperous Athens

Through the *Partners for a Prosperous Athens* initiative, Athenians from all walks of life are coming together to find ways to improve the economic well-being of everyone in our community.

The Partners for a Prosperous Athens is a unique collaborative, co-convened by the Athens-Clarke County Government, the ACC School District, the Chamber of Commerce, Family Connection, and the University of Georgia. The University’s Fanning Institute is providing staff assistance.

A diverse Steering Committee along with hundreds of community volunteers have organized monthly community meetings and are reaching out to neighborhoods, businesses, and churches to identify the most pressing problems and seek solutions. The goal is to involve the entire community, rich and poor, in developing strategies that can work to break the cycle of poverty. The community meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month and are open to everyone.

As a consequence, Athens is coming together to develop strategies that bridge differences and reflect a broad resolve to improve the economic well-being of all its citizens. While there is no pre-set agenda or change strategy this initiative is focusing on improvements and initiatives in six related areas that are known to be critical to meaningful community development:

- ◇ **Dependent Care**
- ◇ **Building A Diverse Economy**
- ◇ **Education Attainment**
- ◇ **Housing & Transportation**
- ◇ **Physical & Mental Health**
- ◇ **Workforce**



Every day too many Athenians struggle to find the basic necessities for themselves and their families. They lack access to affordable healthcare, housing, and daycare. They also don’t have the education and job skills that promise better paying jobs.

According to the 2000 Census, 28% of Athens-Clarke County’s residents live in poverty. Athens is among the 91 poorest counties in Georgia.

Athens is the 5th poorest county of its size in the entire United States.

Myths & Realities

There are a great many myths about those that live in poverty. To fully understand poverty it is important to measure these myths against reality.

Myth: The federal poverty threshold is enough to get by.

REALITY: The official thresholds used by the federal government to determine “need” in 2005 were \$10,160 for an individual and \$19,806 for a family of four. However, local cost of living estimates for Athens-Clarke County range from \$29,709 to \$37,962, one and a half to nearly double the official poverty measure.

Myth: Poor people are lazy.

REALITY: 60 percent of poor families in Georgia reported working during the last census period. That number increases to 65 percent for the families living in poverty in Athens-Clarke County.

Myth: There is a large government welfare support system.

REALITY: Welfare reform has reduced the number of people receiving aid from the federal government, and Georgia regulations of welfare recipients are more stringent than federal laws.

Myth: The University of Georgia student population skews statistics on poverty and other socio-demographic factors.

REALITY: The effects of the UGA student population are minimal; even when the 18-24 age population is excluded from the analysis, the poverty rate for Athens-Clarke County is 23.5 percent.