



The Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment; an agency charged with helping BRAC-affected communities adjust to the impacts of mission changes at military installations

Fort Benning

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Social Services Task Force Meeting 2

February 26, 2009



In association with:



Regionalism is the Key

"Coordination and Synchronization Continue To Be Our Greatest Strengths"
Major General Walter Wojdakowski



 **the valley partnership**
In the Columbus, Georgia Region

**Columbus, GA**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Where progress has preceded.
ACCREDITED
The First 3-Star Chamber in Georgia

Project Purpose

RGMP Study Area:
(10 Counties – 35 Mile Radius)

Ten County Study Area:

Georgia

- Columbus - Muscogee
- Cusseta - Chattahoochee
- Harris
- Marion
- Talbot
- Taylor
- Stewart

Alabama

- Barbour
- Lee
- Russell







Identify:

- What growth will occur?
- Where will it occur?
- Impacts to local communities
- Action plans to prepare

Task Review Summary

TASK	Phase 1		Phase 2		Region		REMARKS
	Status	Due	Status	Due	Status	Due	
1: ID Existing Conditions & Issues	C	12/31/08	C	3/31/09	C	3/31/09	
2: Growth Forecast & Modeling	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
3: Economic Impact Analysis	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
4: Transportation	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
5: Utilities & Infrastructure	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
6: Housing Market Analysis	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
7: Education	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
8: Land Use Planning	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
9: Regional Mapping	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	Some counties no GIS
10: Public Engagement & Comm.	G	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	Website maintenance
11: Environmental Impacts	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
12A: Health Care	G	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	Regional focus
12B: Social Services	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
13: Public Safety & Emergency Services	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
14: Quality of Life	C	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	No issues
15: Fiscal Analysis & Sustainability	G	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	Pending other impacts
16: Implementation	G	12/31/08	G	3/31/09	G	3/31/09	Coord. w/RDC&COG

 Complete
  On Track
  Issues
  At Risk

Stakeholder Task Forces

TASK FORCES

1. Economic Impact
2. Education
3. Funding for Region
4. Health Care & Social Services
5. Housing
6. Utilities & Infrastructure
7. Land Use
8. Public Services
9. Quality of Life
10. Strategic Communications
11. Transportation
12. Workforce

Task Force Meeting # 1

- Presentation of initial findings
- Discussion

Task Force Meeting # 2

- Presentation and discussion of strategies/recommendations
- Implementation strategies

Task Force Responsibilities

- 1) Review task, scope and methodology
- 2) Confirm existing conditions and known issues
- 3) Establish points of contact for data collection
- 4) Review findings and recommendations
- 5) Communicate with community regarding actions and status of Plan
- 6) Provide guidance in Plan implementation

Task Force Meeting Objectives

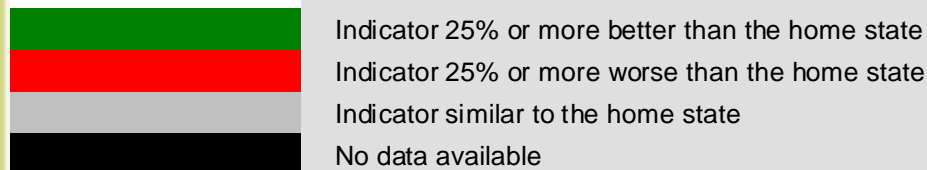
- Review Existing Conditions & Issues
- Discuss Findings & Recommendations
- Discuss and Confirm Way Ahead

Social Services Methodology

- Focuses on regional profile
 - Delivery does not correspond closely with jurisdictional boundaries
 - Service population is broader and more fluid
- Reviewed a variety of social service indicators to develop a regional profile

Regional Profile

GEOGRAPHY	Infant Mortality	Teen Pregnancy	Child Abuse	Child Poverty	Family Poverty	Violent Crime	Educational Attainment	Graduation Rates	Unemployment Rates	Health Insurance Coverage
Georgia										
Chattahoochee	Black	Green	Green	Grey	Black	Green	Black	Grey	Red	Red
Harris	Black	Grey	Red	Green	Black	Green	Black	Grey	Grey	Grey
Marion	Black	Red	Grey	Red	Black	Black	Black	Grey	Grey	Red
Muscogee	Red	Red	Green	Red	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Stewart	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Red	Red	Grey
Talbot	Black	Black	Red	Red	Black	Black	Black	Grey	Red	Grey
Taylor	Black	Green	Red	Red	Black	Green	Black	Grey	Red	Grey
Alabama										
Barbour	Red	Red	Red	Red	Black	Green	Black	Red	Red	Grey
Lee	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Grey	Red
Russell	Red	Red	Red	Red	Black	Grey	Black	Red	Red	Grey



Regional Profile

- Chattahoochee and Harris counties in Georgia and Lee County in Alabama have most positive social and economic outcomes
- The region lags the states of Georgia and Alabama in developing employment opportunities and health care
- Children also face less stable conditions stemming from teen pregnancy, child abuse, and child poverty

Regional Profile

- Both urban and rural communities within the region experience high levels of social service need
- More urbanized counties display higher rates of crime, child poverty, and teen pregnancy
- The isolation of rural counties produces higher rates of child poverty and teen pregnancy, lower levels of educational attainment and fewer job opportunities

Regional Profile

- 2005 Community Assets and Critical Issues Assessment
- Challenges include:
 - persistent poverty
 - homelessness
 - lack of employment opportunities
 - lack of health care access
 - lack of transportation

Needs Assessment

- Significant proportion of the clients include military personnel and their families
- Needs related to transitional populations and populations in stress
- Social service programs often fill the void by supporting individuals who have difficulty adapting in a changing environment

Needs Assessment

- Increase in the demand for social services reflects both national trends and conditions specific to the region, including:
 - current economic downturn
 - an increase in the number of economic migrants and immigrants
 - an aging population
 - and stress among military families associated with combat and deployment

Needs Assessment

- Increase in the need for assistance with basic services, such as housing, food, and utilities
- Impact of BRAC and trends like aging and economic change increase demand for:
 - after school and child development programs;
 - general family support services;
 - domestic violence intervention;
 - substance abuse and mental health counseling;
 - shelter and homeless support services;
 - job training and employment placement assistance; and
 - subsidized assisted living care.

Key Issues

- Focus on maintaining family and relationship stability
- Increasing need for youth-oriented programming
- Need to build relationships between community providers and the Army
- Social service needs overlap with housing, transportation, health care, and child care

Key Issues

- Economic instability has increased
- People drawn to the region by overly optimistic expectations cannot readily connect to suitable employment
- Workers without adequate skills experience diminished job prospects

Key Issues

- The Columbus region currently has an estimated 2,350 homeless people
- Service providers interviewed believe the number to be higher
- Estimated 25-30 percent of homeless people has severe and persistent mental illness
- Many agencies active in addressing homeless needs, including the Homeless Resource Network

Key Issues

- Providers have noted the rising prevalence of homelessness in the region
- A task force will begin to develop a 10-year homeless plan that fully assesses the extent of the problem and examines critical issues

Key Issues

- Key issues affecting quality of life among seniors, including:
 - transportation for a dispersed and special-needs population
 - lower acceptance rates of Medicare
 - low pay for nursing home aides
 - the lack of subsidized assisted living care

Key Issues

- Challenges of delivery in rural areas:
 - High rates of poverty and teen pregnancy and lower levels of educational attainment and workforce participation due
 - Dispersed population and the lack of major employers to act as private sector funding partners
 - Isolation also restricts the ability of needy families and individuals to seek out assistance

Key Issues

- Social service needs often outstrip available funding resources
- Federal and state funding for social services in recent years has decreased
- Charitable giving from the Combined Federal Campaign does not always flow to local areas or nearby community organizations experiencing significant need

Service Gaps

- General family support services, including outreach to military families;
- Emergency and transitional shelter for the homeless or victims of domestic violence;
- Structured youth-oriented activities, including after school programming, mentoring, and educational support;
- Lack of social workers

Service Gaps

- Publicly subsidized assisted living care for seniors;
- Transportation support services to facilitate access to available programs;
- Outreach to the immigrant community, particularly for non-native English speakers; and
- Support facilities and outreach strategies to service rural populations

Facility Gaps

Facility Gap	Muscogee				Chattahoochee				Harris				Lee				Russell			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Emergency Shelter	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Social Worker Office Space	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
One Stop Center	Medium	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Assisted Living Spaces	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	Low	Low
After School Spaces	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low



Recommendations

- Promoting home visitation programs that educate families about health, child development, school readiness issues;
- Providing increased outreach and support to immigrant families; and
- Developing the 10-year homeless plan and including coordination with military stakeholders to address the specific needs of homeless veterans

Recommendations

- Emphasizing job training and education as a means to improve employment opportunities; and
- Implementing rural service strategies, such as co-locating programs and using alternative forms of delivery

Recommendations

- Establishing a Work Force Housing Task Force in Harris County to promote quality, affordable housing;
- Expanding youth-oriented programs, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, and engaging the business community as a private sector funding partner; and
- Expanding participation in the Combined Federal Campaign

Recommendations

- Conduct a Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Update
- Explore development of a common benefits enrollment and asset building tool to increase service delivery efficiency, such as Nets to Ladders (N2L)

Recommendations

- Conduct a quarterly meeting of military and community social service representatives to identify emerging issues and develop joint service strategies;
- Host a joint human services military day on Fort Benning to increase awareness among Soldiers and their families of available community resources.

Recommendations

- Schedule training sessions with community mental health, social services and substance abuse providers to strengthen understanding of veteran eligibility and available programs;
- Jointly target prevention and outreach efforts to those families in known high-risk categories such as young, newly married enlisted couples, families with infants and small children, households with limited income, and single parent families.

Recommendations

- Develop a joint media outreach strategy
 - annual report or brochure that highlights their mission and delivery capabilities and features success stories and best practices
- Develop a multiple county social services alliance
 - web site
 - community services directory

Recommendations

- Co-locate services in One-Stop Centers
- Enhance volunteer development and outreach, targeting military spouses and military retirees in the area
- Diversify funding sources
- Encourage local representation in the Combined Federal Campaign

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