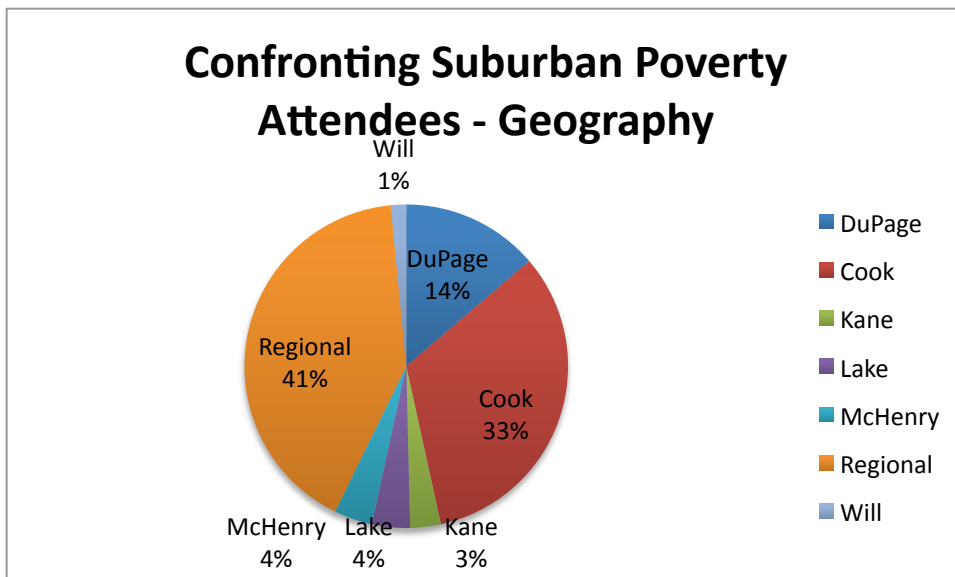
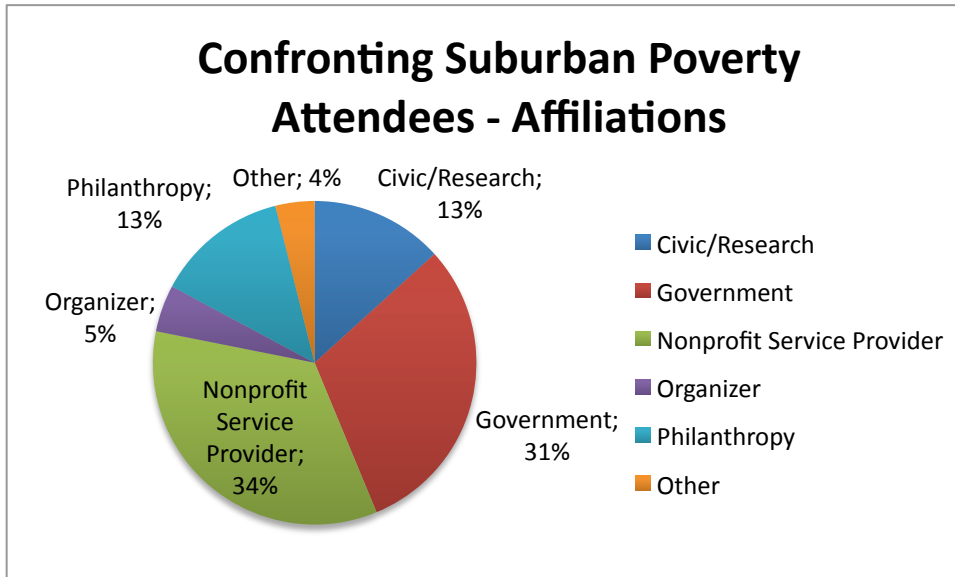


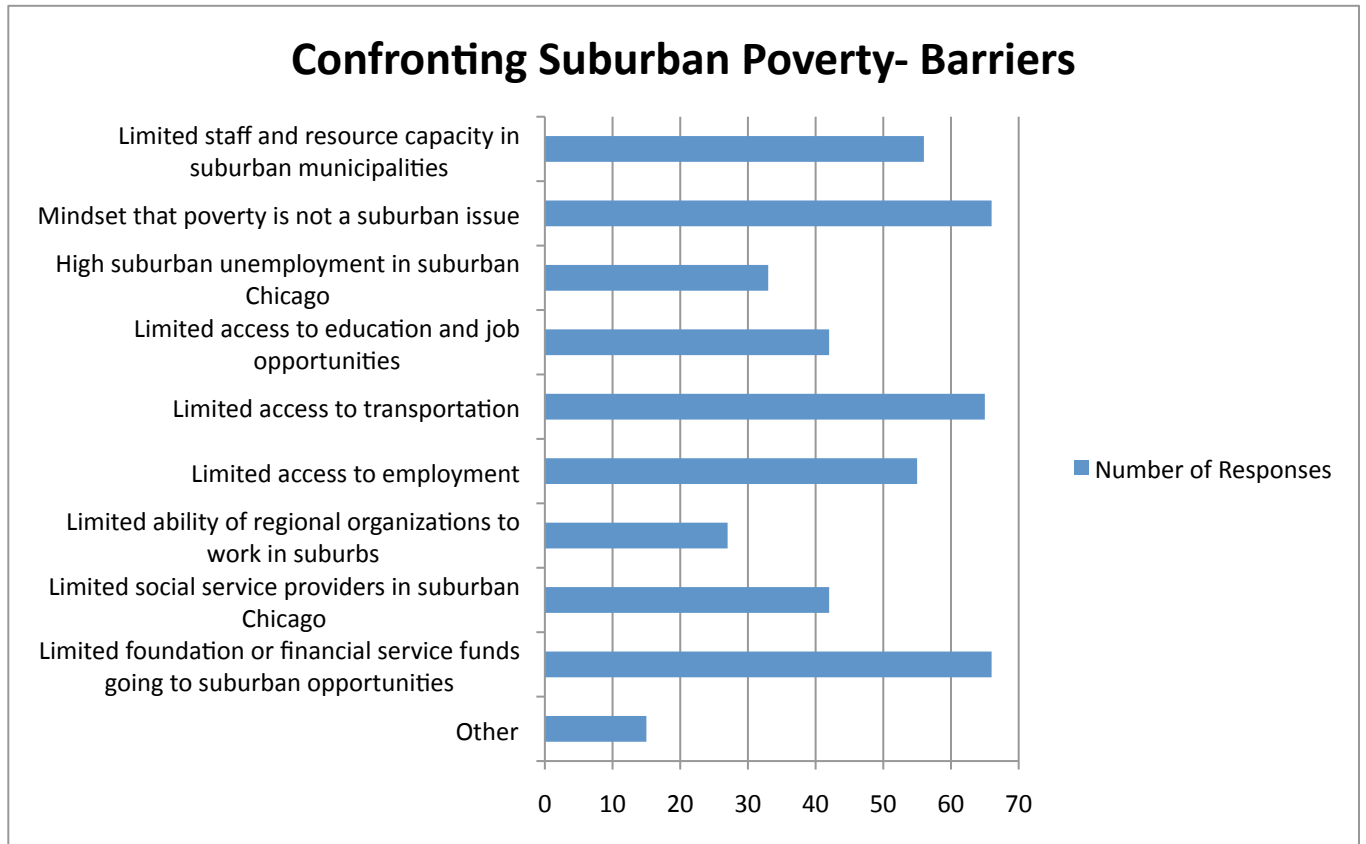
# CONFRONTING SUBURBAN POVERTY – A CONVENING September 26, 2013

## Summary of RSVP Survey Responses

Who RSVP-d for today's Convening?



## What are the most significant barriers to alleviating poverty in Suburban Chicago?



### Some of the Other barriers identified by respondents include the following.

“Fractionalization of suburban local governments and misc. taxing bodies--nobody's geography matches anyone else's.”

“bilingual social service staff”

“The significant increase in demand for services”

“Racial and economic segregation”

“lack of collaborative or metropolitan leadership”

**What can we do in metropolitan Chicago to help alleviate suburban poverty at appropriate scale?** (A summary of respondents' answers to this question is summarized below).

Educate on data-driven solutions

- Continue to highlight data-driven analysis of the issue(s) associated with poverty
- Gather data and monitor the growing trends in the metropolitan areas so that funding and resources can be directed to move the needle on specific issues (i.e. ,in DuPage, data is revealing growing trend of single moms in poverty despite working full time).
- There needs to be a deeper understanding in metro Chicago that suburban poverty exists. It may "look" different than the city but nonetheless it does exist.
- Community leaders will need to overlay existing data on poverty against information on the amount and type of services available towards promoting collaborative partnerships and funding submissions between nonprofit agencies.
- Develop strong collaborations among municipalities, research based institutions and practitioners to address key issues affecting poverty in the suburbs.
- Bring it to the forefront at the level of state and federal government. And show that funding is unevenly distributed throughout the state. Either urban areas or rural areas are usually focused upon before suburban areas.

Coordinate public and private sector funding and leadership

- Build a civic infrastructure to develop solutions that respond to local conditions.
- Collaboration among funders to allocate larger resources to specific needs.
- Provide education to donors and foundations about the issues that are present and unique in the suburbs. Educate the legislators about the dire needs in the suburbs. Offer successful models of delivery of service that worked in Chicago so they can be modified or adapted to the suburbs. No need to reinvent the wheel.
- Align interests of diverse federal agencies toward 'built environment' assets and service provision - see National Prevention Council Action Plan.

Promote regional and subregional capacity

- Establish adequately funded economic development areas at the county, council of governments, and regional levels.
- Create more effective regional organizations. Funnel more federal dollars to suburban poverty.
- Invest in scaling organizations with a suburban focus that are seeking a multi-suburb footprint.
- Set the infrastructure to bring regional organizations and serve the most needed suburbs. Infrastructure is to organize municipalities and community based organizations to come together to set the goals and vision.

- We will need regional organizations and inter-jurisdictional collaboration to ensure that the poor who do live in suburbs can access jobs and education to rise out of poverty.

#### Invest in workforce development

- Create a vehicle or coalition for connecting workforce housing, social service, economic development, and planning/policy organizations to better address the issue "holistically"
- Technical/vocational training to improve worker skills.
- Help people in poverty connect with job opportunities that pay a family sustaining wage.
- Funding for supportive services to assist people to become successful in obtaining jobs, housing and transportation is key.

#### Support Inclusive Communities

- Promote integrated communities.
- Support municipalities to develop effective methods to engage, support and maximize the assets of new residents, particularly the growing Latino population.

#### Property taxes and school funding

- Adequately fund public schools in lower income suburbs.
- Replace property tax with graduated income tax.

#### Transportation, housing and infrastructure

- We need to develop service models that recognize the unique characteristics of the suburbs...specifically the lack of public transportation outside of Cook County, the lack of affordable housing, the fragmentation of government and educational services all make the suburbs a challenging environment.
- Working with organizations and policy makers on (1) strategies and policies to facilitate the ability of local governments to confront vacant property challenges, including through land banking; and (2) programs and policies to preserve and expand affordable housing opportunities.
- Implement initiatives to address the aging infrastructure in suburban municipalities and an aging population.