



December 4, 2006

Dear All:

Attached you will find the complete set of recommendations that has been received from the community so far. You have worked very hard to create these solutions to address poverty in our community and to improve the quality of life for all Athenians. Thank you for your work!

There are over 100 recommendations addressing a variety of issues including Education, Early Learning, Dependent Care, the Economy, Housing, Health, Workforce, Mentoring, Service Providers, Transportation, and Adult Education.

Your participation and recommendations have made several things very clear. First, poverty affects all of us. It reflects negatively on our community and limits economic growth. Poverty makes government, education, health care, and social services more expensive not just for the poor, but for everyone.

As a community we have learned that the issues of poverty are interrelated and must be addressed with a holistic approach. High expectations must be maintained not only of our citizens, but also of our institutions. Business as usual is not working. To break the cycle of poverty we need innovation and creativity.

During the next two months we will continue working with the committee chairs and Steering Committee to research and refine the recommendations. The Steering Committee will agree upon the set of PPA recommendations at its retreat in February. These PPA recommendations will be posted on the web and discussed with you at Town Meetings in March prior to them being sent to the Co-Conveners for their approval. Your continued involvement is critical to ultimate success.

Thank you for your commitment to our community!

Sincerely,
Steve Jones, Chairman
Partners For A Prosperous Athens

**ECONOMY'S CULTURE OF POVERTY SUB-COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

Food habits/the kinds of food people have access to influence health (diabetes, etc.), which in turn reinforces poverty.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Conduct systematic community food assessments, develop food policy, establish better grocery markets that are within walking distance of key low income areas, set up ability to use food stamps in farmers market, conduct cooking demonstrations at market, etc. Shayna Bailey and Shannon McBride are trying to meet someone named David Weiner who is also interested in the politics of food and food policy. We plan on spending our time fleshing this issue out in detail over the next three months.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)

- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation.** List potential sources if possible.

- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation.** List any recommended locations.

- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

- **Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.**
Forces that support (please list):
Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

**ECONOMY'S CULTURE OF POVERTY SUB-COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

The poor need to be within walking distance of grocery stores. There is a need for neighborhood markets. The poor get less for their grocery dollar because the only food sources consistently close are high priced convenience stores.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Cultivate entrepreneurs and subsidize them with low interest loans to build and operate neighborhood markets that serve low-income areas.

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**ECONOMY'S CULTURE OF POVERTY SUB-COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

High drop out rates and teen pregnancy lead to a cycle of poverty.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Kids follow "trend setters" or other kids in cliques that tend to be observed as "cool". **To reduce high drop out rate, utilize the new Graduation Coaches to encourage trend setters to serve as mentors to other kids for positive change.** If the Graduation Coaches don't materialize then the program should be funded locally.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)

A conversation with three Clark County High School students interested in initiatives to alleviate poverty.

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Clark County Board of Education

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- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**
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**ECONOMY'S CULTURE OF POVERTY SUB-COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

Parents in poverty often feel overwhelmed and helpless.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Establish a mentoring program for families in poverty. The Council on Aging's foster grandmothers program was suggested as a possible model. We want an alternative and more accessible/community based program. Not DFACS, etc. The foster grandmother's themselves were agreed to be an important resource for suggestions, ideas, and perceived relevance of such a program.

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**ECONOMY'S CULTURE OF POVERTY SUB-COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing

Lack of hope sometimes inadvertently reinforced by institutions such as DFACS. People need to feel successful at something in order to have and maintain hope. Institutional structures are frequently set people up to fail.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Have community based assistance that augments DFACS, etc. Case loads for social workers need to be smaller, mental health issues need to be better identified and understood by caseworkers.

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