

# **Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services**

**Presented By:**  
**Ellen Gerstein**  
Executive Director



# Why a Coalition?

- **Historical Factors and Implications**
- **Unified Vision and Mission for Health and Human Services**
- **Representative/Responsive Board**
  - Public/Private Partnership
- **Community Issues**
  - no one agency's ownership



# Historical Factors

- For 30 years, Gwinnett County grew at an average of 17,000 people annually.
- From 1970-1990, Gwinnett County's Population doubled (or more) every ten years. Back then, projections indicated the growth would continue.
- Between 1970 and 1980, Gwinnett was the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing county in Georgia and the 17<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the nation. By 1990, Gwinnett was 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

*Proportionately, Gwinnett has accounted for over one-quarter of the growth in the Atlanta region since 1970.*



# Implications

## Gwinnett is enriched by its diversity, however...

- ✓ Diversity forces higher costs on human services and public education through hiring multi-lingual staff and revamping services to target specific populations.
- ✓ Widespread growth strains services that are already underfunded.
- ✓ Without special efforts, health and human service programs become ineffective and inequitable.

# Implications

- **With growth comes increase in social issues**
- **Recession puts stress on economy and community partners while need is at an all time high**
- **Prevention is still most efficient and effective strategy**



# Vision Statement

**Gwinnett is a united community of healthy and drug-free individuals and families, who are self-sufficient, honors diversity and supports all members' success in learning, work and life.**



# Mission Statement

**The Gwinnett Coalition for Health & Human Services is a public/private partnership whose mission is to facilitate collaboration that improves the well-being of the community.**

## **We accomplish this mission by:**

- Identifying needs and resources,
- Setting priorities,
- Planning solutions,
- Being accountable for results, and
- Educating and motivating the community to action.



# Board Structure -- Public

## County = 7

- Planning Director
- Health & Human Services Director
- Police Chief
- Library Director
- Human Relations Director
- Public Hospital System Director
- Juvenile Court Judge





# Board Structure -- Public

## State = 7

- DFCS Director
- DFCS Board Member
- Community Service Board Director
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- Public Health Director
- Dept. of Labor Manager



# Board Structure -- Schools

## Schools = 4

- Buford School Superintendent
- Gwinnett School Superintendent
- Buford School Board Member
- Gwinnett School Board Member

# Board Structure -- Private

## Corporate/Professional Services = 17

- Large-size Corporations (6)
- Med.-size Corporations (4)
- Small-size Corporations (4)
- Professional Services (3)

# Board Structure -- Funders

## Funders = 7

- United Way (2)
- Community Foundation (2)
- Churches (3)

# Board Structure -- Providers

## Service Providers = 3

- Hi-Hope Center
- GUIDE, Inc.
- Impact Group

# Board of Directors -- Other

## Other Groups = 8

- Chamber of Commerce
- Municipal Association
- Council for Quality Growth
- Consumer Representative
- Community-at-Large (2)
- Youth Representative
- ARC Workforce Investment



•  
•  
•



# Persisting Community Issues...

# Community Denial

- o Problems shadowed by affluence
- o Progress stunted by “not in my backyard” syndrome
- o Leadership struggles with demands





# 2009 Demographics

- **Total population = 789,499**
- **White = 50.3%**
- **Black = 21.0%**
- **Hispanic = 17.5%**
- **Asian = 9.3%**
- **Other = 1.9%**



# Senior Population

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Seniors 60+	46,861	71,518	111,033	160,985	222,770
Total Population	596,652	726,103	841,937	949,850	1,050,357
Senior % of Projected Population	7.85	9.84	13.18	16.95	21.20

*By 2020, Gwinnett senior population 60+ could numerically exceed Gwinnett school age (5-19) population*

# How We Compare

## Gwinnett vs. Georgia vs. US

	Gwinnett	GA	US
Overall Child Well Being (percent)	78.6	70.7	--
16-19 Year Old Who Are High School Dropouts (percent)	7.8	9.1	6.0
Child Death Rate, Ages 1 to 14	18.0	21.1	19.0
Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15 to 19	46.3	54.1	42.0
Low Birth Weight Babies (percent)	7.7	9.6	8.3

**Georgia ranks 46<sup>th</sup> out of 52 states in the US**



# School Population Changes

- Gwinnett County Public Schools is the largest school system in Georgia and still growing.
- Total enrollment for the year 2010-2011 is estimated to be 174,073
- More than 100 languages are spoken among Gwinnett students
  - Gwinnett County Public Schools ESOL program serves more than 9,600 students

Source: Report to the Community, 2004 and Gwinnett County Public Schools, 2006



# Gwinnett Youth

	2000	2006	2008
<i>Decreasing/Increasing As Anticipated:</i>			
Ever smoked cigarettes (HS)	31.7%	29.2%	18.7%
Ever used marijuana (HS)	29.2%	29.1%	20.7%
Ever used inhalants (MS)	11.2%	5.1%	1.2%
Used alcohol/drugs during sex (HS)	27.1%	22.0%	21.9%

Source: Gwinnett Comprehensive Youth Health Survey

# Gwinnett Youth

	2000	2006	2008
<i>Increasing/Decreasing In Adverse Way</i>			
Ever had sexual intercourse (HS)	30.6%	37.0%	26.7%
Been forced into having sex (HS)	9.9%	11.0%	11.8%
Hit or beat someone up (HS)	24.0%	36.7%	33.1%
Skipped school (HS)	11.0%	17.9%	26.4%%



# Gwinnett Youth

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Been sexually abused (HS)	11.1%	12.8%	11.9%
Been physically abused (HS)	19.4%	20.6%	22.2%
Had sex with 3+ partners (MS)	2.4%	6.1%	4.0%
Considered suicide (MS)	8.9%	10.6%	6.6%
Ever attempted suicide (MS)	4.8%	6.2%	4.2%
Drank 5+ drinks in a row (HS)	15.8%	25.3%	14%
Drove while under the influence (HS)	4.9%	8.5%	4.0%
Rode w/ impaired driver (HS)	15.8%	18.0%	11.0%

Source: Gwinnett Comprehensive Youth Health Survey, 2000 -2008



The Gwinnett Coalition  
For Health and Human Services

# Gwinnett Youth

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Ever drank alcohol (HS)	59.1%	53.8%	36%
Considered suicide (HS)	16.7%	11.0%	10.0%
Ever attempted suicide (HS)	7.4%	6.2%	5.8%
Ever contracted STD (HS)	5.8%	2.9%	2.6%
Been pregnant/impregnate (HS)	13.6%	4.4%	3.5%
Feel safe at school (MS)	88.0%	79.7%	77.0%
Volunteer 1 or more hours per week (HS)	47.0%	34.7%	39.0%
Volunteer 1 or more hours per week (MS)	44.0%	28.2%	29.0%

Source: Gwinnett Comprehensive Youth Health Survey, 2000-2008





# Gwinnett Economy

- More than 61,000 Gwinnett jobs were lost in 2008.
- Gwinnett's unemployment rates increased 2.5 percent in 2008 to a total of 6.4 percent. In August 2009 projected to be 9.3%. By end of year projected to be over 10%.

Source: Gwinnett Daily Post, 2008; Atlanta Journal Constitution, 2009



# Gwinnett Economy

- Georgia had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of personal bankruptcies in the nation in 2008.
- In July 2008, foreclosures in Georgia were up over 18 percent from the same time in 2007 or one in every 385 in the state.
- In less than 10 Years, the number of Gwinnett residents declaring personal bankruptcy nearly doubled (2713 in 1998 to 5655 in 2005)

Source: Gwinnett County Economic Indicators Report, 2006; Gwinnett Daily Post, 2007; Georgia Debt Law, 2008

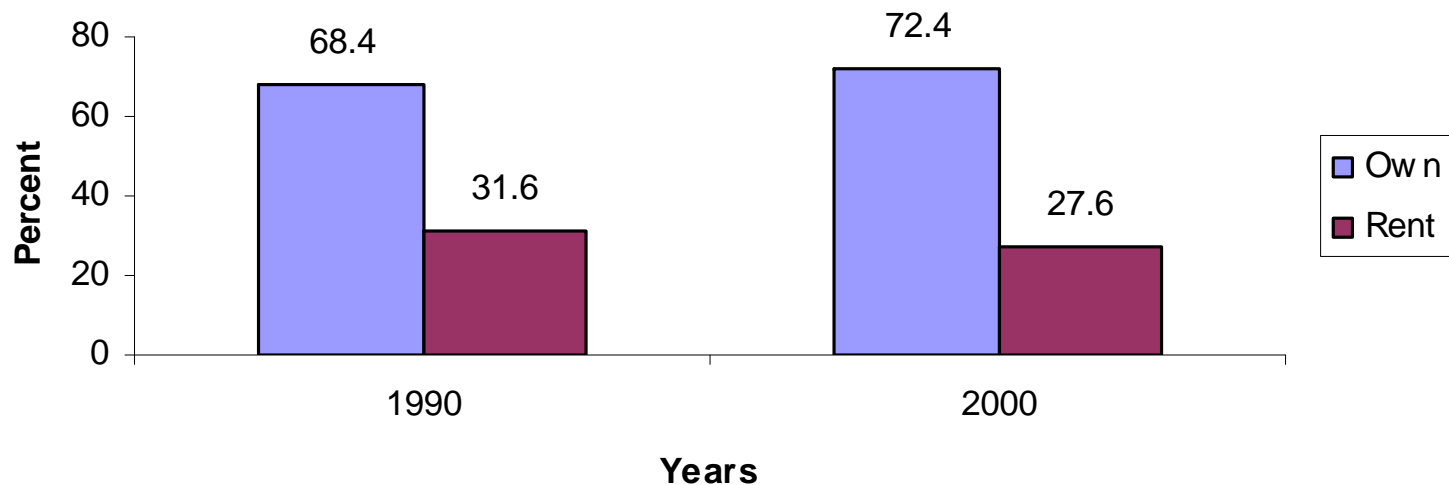


The Gwinnett Coalition  
For Health and Human Services

# Gwinnett Economy

Nearly 1/3 of Gwinnett residents rent their home

Percent Rent vs. Own, 1990 and 2000



**Some communities show opposite trends:**

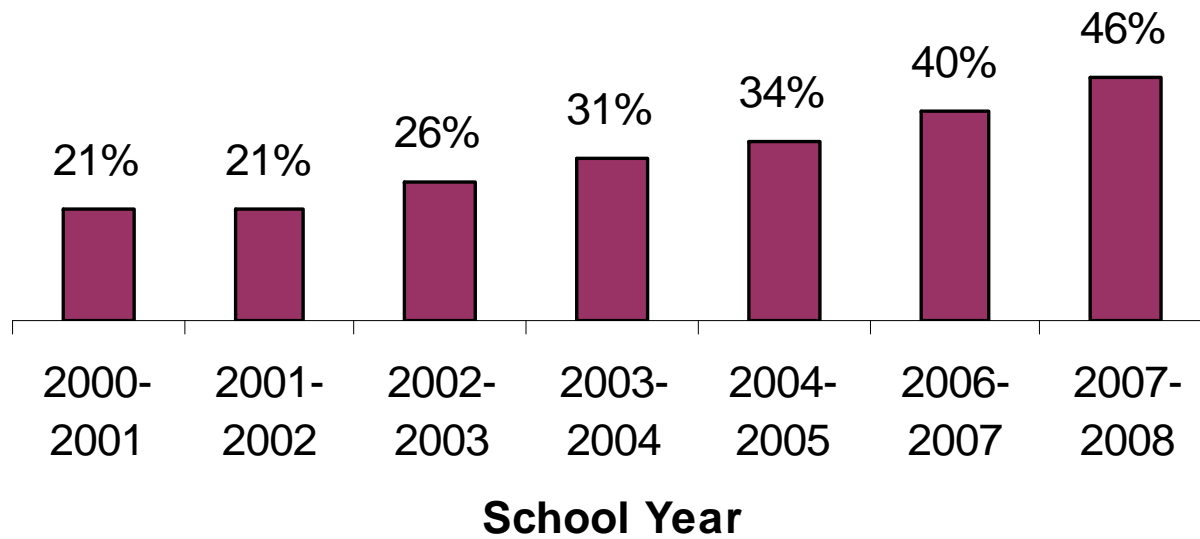
In 2000, Meadowcreek: **54%** (rent); **45.1%** (own)

Source: US Census 1990 and 2000

# Gwinnett Economy

**The Percent Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch Has More Than Doubled Since 2000**

**Percent Free and Reduced Lunch 2000-2008**



# Gwinnett Economy

**The average rate of mobility among students in the Gwinnett County School System is 24.5 per every 100 students.**

**! The top three schools based on mobility ratios were:**

**Corley ES (52.93 per 100)**

**Nesbit ES (52.44 per 100)**

**Stripling ES (52.23 per 100)**

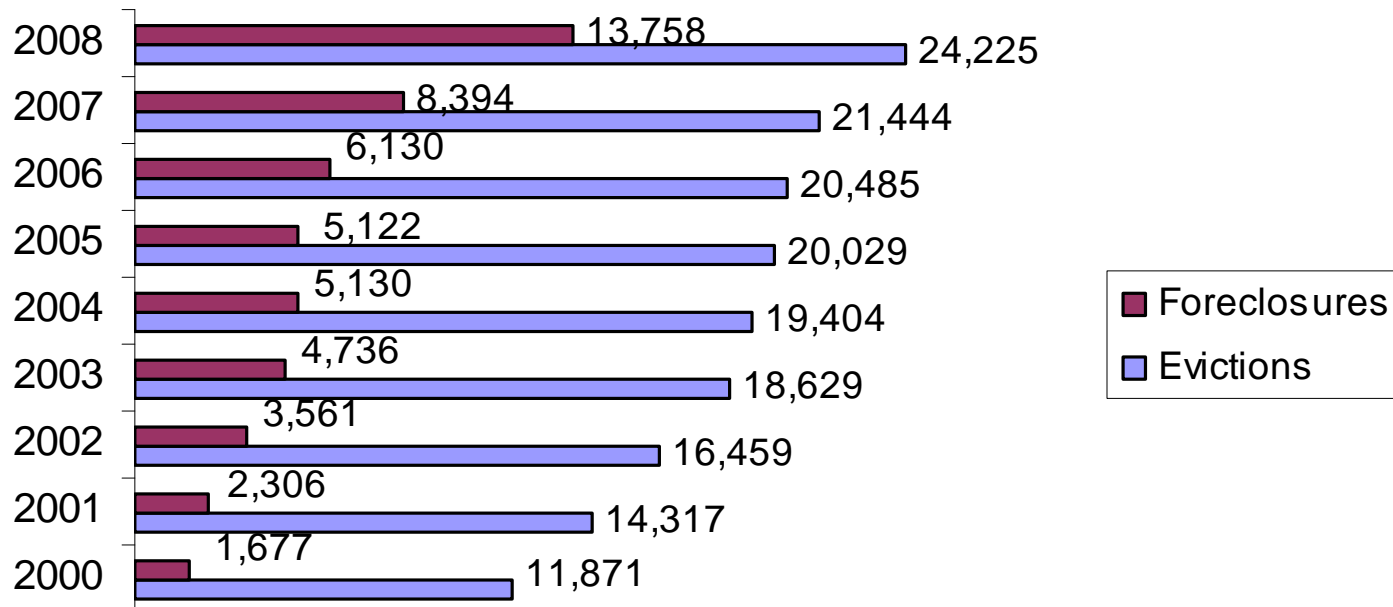
Source: Gwinnett County Schools



# Gwinnett Economy

In Gwinnett, the #1 Reason for Homelessness has been Displacement by way of Eviction or Foreclosure

Number of Foreclosures and Evictions  
2000-2008



Source: Gwinnett County Government



# Gwinnett Economy

- Approximately 1,090 students in Gwinnett schools are homeless (either living in extended-stay motels or bunking with relatives because of parent's situation)
- A total of 910 persons were found to be homeless or precariously housed in Gwinnett County on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- From June 2007 to July 2008, Gwinnett had the highest percent increase in the state for the number of food stamp recipients (37.8%) and the number of Medicaid cases (26.3%).

# Uncharacteristic Poverty Issues

**Poverty shown by percentages represent only a slight increase, however the change is more dramatic when represented in numbers**

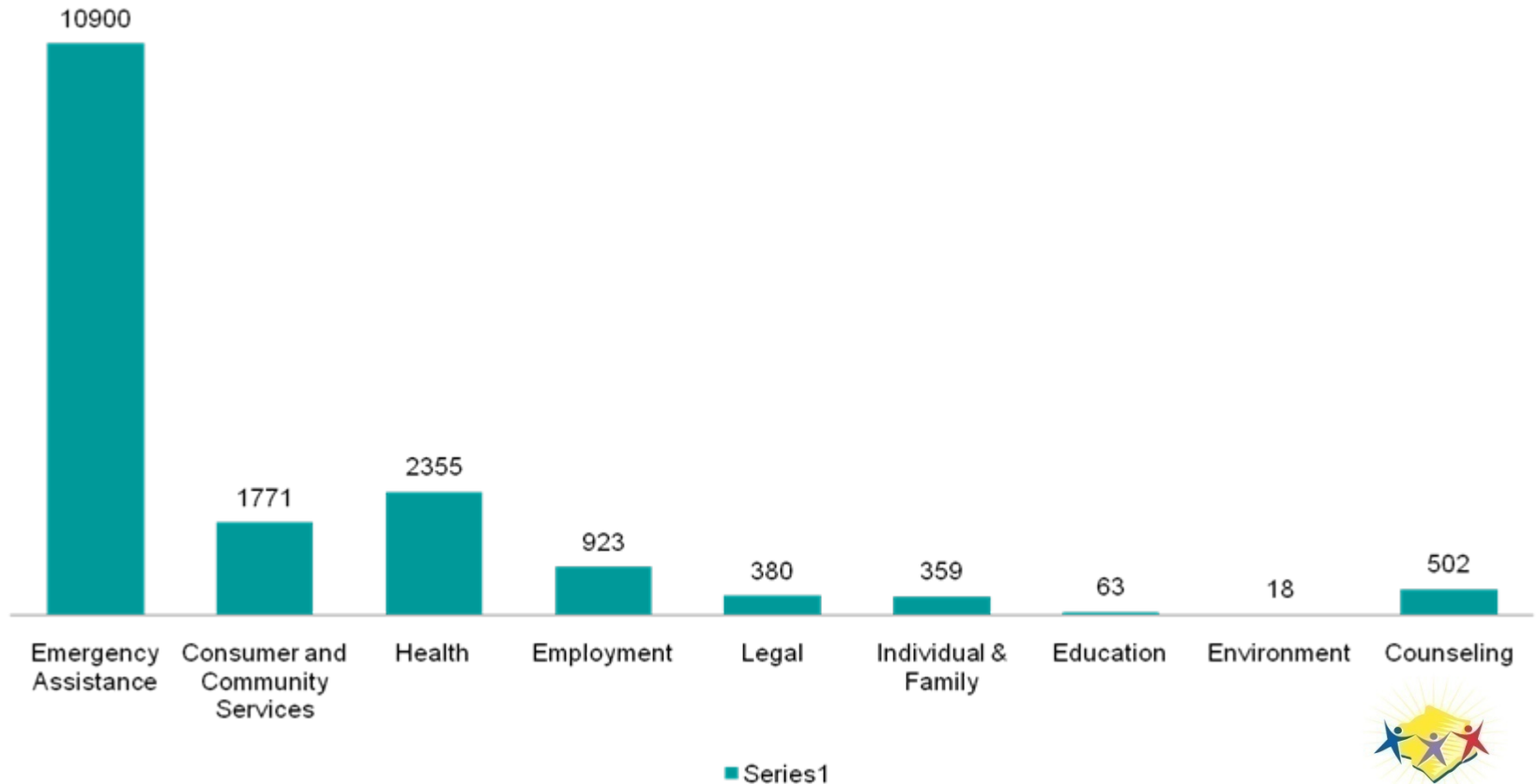
- Between 1990 and 2000 the actual number of people living in poverty increased 137% or by more than 19,000
- During the same time, the number of children living in poverty increased more than 6,000 or 139%
- This increase represented both the largest percent and net increases in the Atlanta-region

Source: US Census, 2000



# Uncharacteristic Poverty Issues

## Majority Emergency Assistance Calls, 2008



# Gwinnett Health

The top five leading causes of premature death in Gwinnett County are all preventable

	Cause	YPLL Rate per 100,000
1	External Causes (Suicide, Homicide)	1468
2	Cancer	1101
3	Major Cardiovascular Disease	944
4	Fetal and Infant Conditions (including SIDS)	571
5	Respiratory Disease	221

Source: East Metro Health District, 2006



The Gwinnett Coalition  
For Health and Human Services

# Gwinnett Health

## Domestic Violence

**In recent years, up to 70% of total homicides were domestic**

***It is estimated that children are present in 60% of domestic violence calls to police***

Source: Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office



# Gwinnett Health

- Public Health dollars within Georgia counties based upon 1970's population figures
  - Second highest in # of cases, lowest in funding
- Hospital system is estimated to be 33 million dollars in debt due to providing treatment to people who are uninsured or unable to pay.
- Medical funding stressed by growth and increased demand on services.

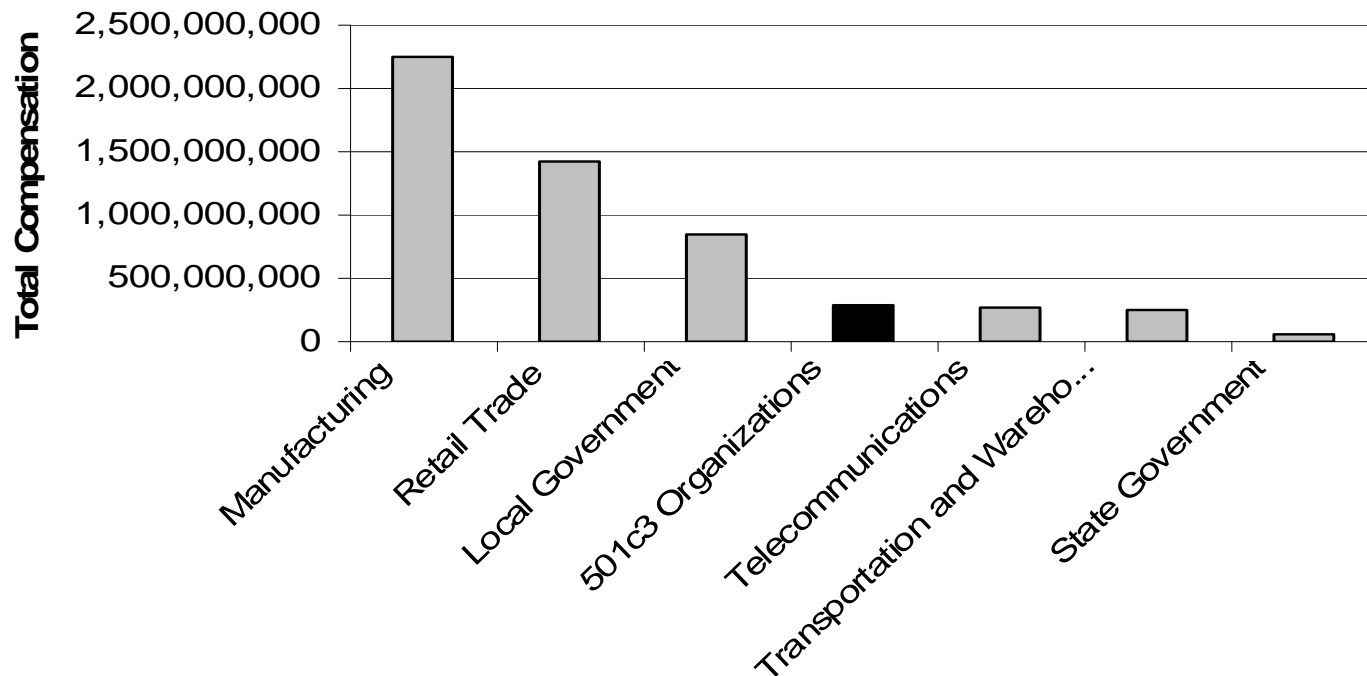
# The Gwinnett County Nonprofit Network:

- ✓ Contributes to statewide and local economies in many valuable ways.
- ✓ Provides a valuable return on investments going to support nonprofit services.
- ✓ Demonstrates a collective and direct economic strength that is capable of sustaining its momentum in the future.



# The Gwinnett County Nonprofit Network:

Gwinnett County nonprofits have a greater local payroll than the state government, transportation and warehousing, or telecommunications sectors.



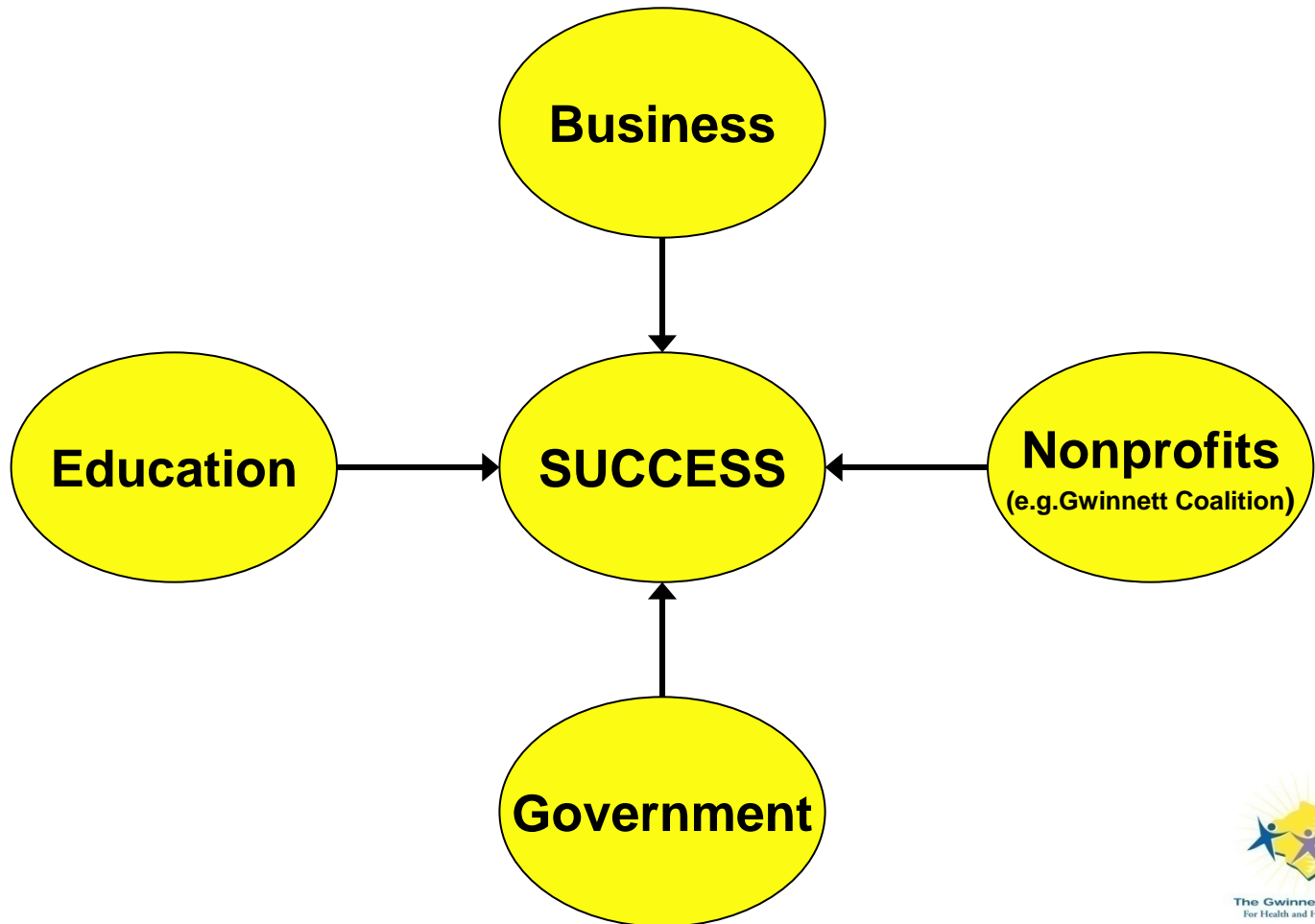
# The Gwinnett County Nonprofit Network:

## Pay Now or Pay Later

- Current subsidy monies for Gwinnett nonprofit organizations is in jeopardy of cuts up to \$263,861 to balance the budget.
- If local county government were to assume the activities of Gwinnett County's nonprofit sector, budget deficits of between \$6.1 million and \$18 million annually would occur.

# Keys to Success Lives Here

## Public/Private Partnership





# Coalition Timeline

- **1987-89** United Way strategic plan recommends formation of forum for human service issues
- **Spring 1989** Initial Coalition meetings held
- **1990** Coalition formally incorporated
- **1990-91** “Human Service Needs Assessment” Conducted



# Coalition Timeline

- **1991** Coalition hires staff
- **1991** Information & Referral System established
- **1991-92** Coalition Board and Committee structure finalized
- **1992-95** First three-year plan implemented

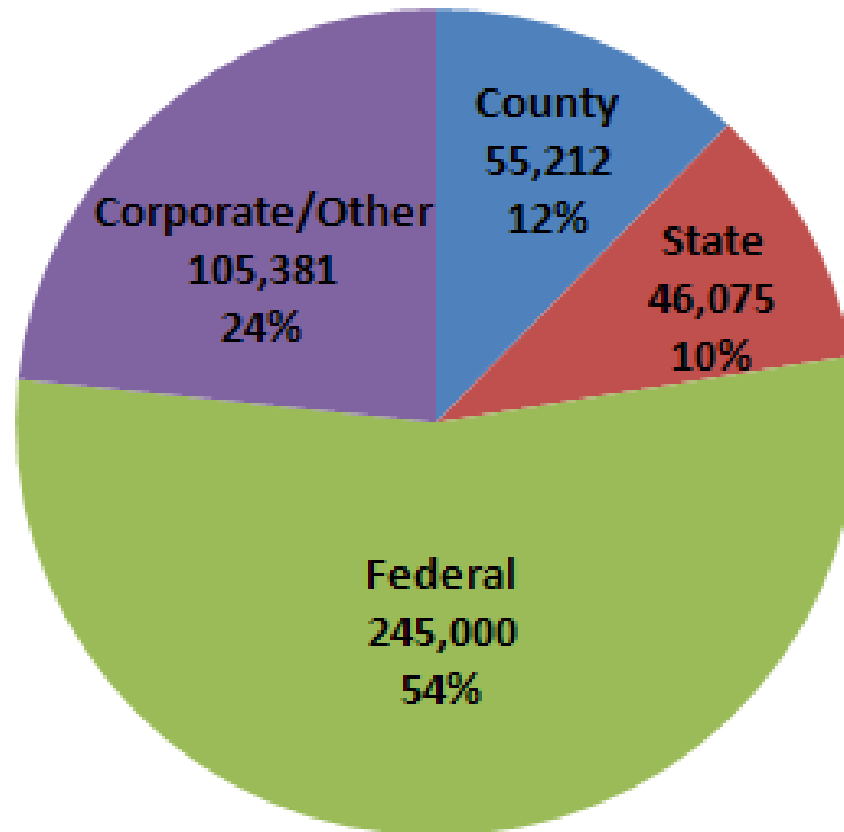


# Coalition Timeline

- **1995-97** Second three-year plan implemented
- **Winter 1997** Board of Commissioners Resolution designating Coalition as planner for children and families
- **1998-2009** Three additional plans implemented resulting in dozens of successful initiatives
- **July 2009** – Current plan implemented



# 2010 Budget



# 2010 Budget

## Major Revenue Sources

Federal Government = various grants

State Government = family connection

County Government = Subsidy

Other State and Local Government Partners

Corporate Donations

Individuals



# Major Initiatives

- **Gwinnett Helpline**
- **Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership**
- **Gwinnett Great Days of Service**
- **Gwinnett Non-profit CEO roundtable**
- **Strategic Planning for Gwinnett Children and Families**
- **Drug Free Communities/Youth Survey**
- **GA Family Connection**

## Recent Success

- **Gwinnett Helpline** – Last year over 20,000 callers were directed to local agencies to help address various needs, with housing assistance and help with utility bills being the most requested need. Since 1991, over 380,000 callers have been assisted.

# Recent Success

- **Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership** - graduated largest grass roots diverse class in 14 year history.
- **Gwinnett Great Days of Service** - utilized over 70,000 volunteers on over 110 projects to help people and agencies in Gwinnett. During the event in October, the Gwinnett County Public Schools collected over 100,000 cans of food that were distributed to aid the hungry in Gwinnett.



## Recent Success

- **The Gwinnett Coalition brings in millions of dollars for area agencies to address the critical needs of its citizens. This year, through the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program, The Gwinnett Coalition dispersed over \$750,000 to local shelters, cooperative ministries and other helping agencies.**



# Recent Success

- **Drug Free Communities Coalition** – federal grant for drug prevention to address substance abuse and underage drinking.
- **Family Connection** – statewide organization that connects needs of children and families to resources.



# Other Accomplishments

- Created 6 cooperative ministries to cover every zip code in Gwinnett
- Recommended and assisted the county with geographically located One Stop Health and Human Service Cluster Centers
- Created affordable housing organization – IMPACT Group!
- Significantly reduced youth high risk behaviors since 1996.
- Many others.....

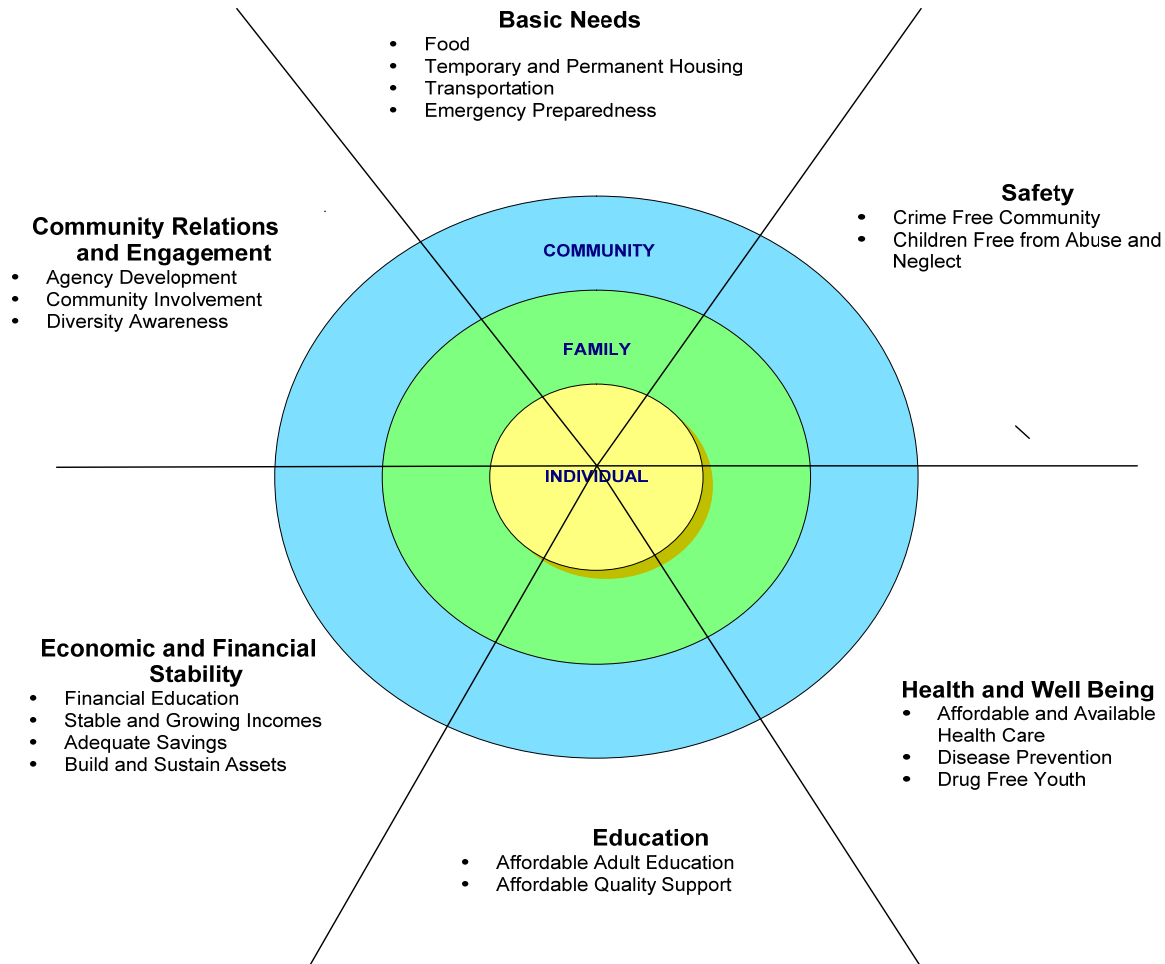


•  
•  
•



# **Coalition 2010-2012 Strategic Plan...**

# Systemic Planning Model



# FY2010 Plan Content

**18 Goals**

**27 Benchmarks**

**31 Strategies**

**88 *Activities***



# Basic Needs

## Priorities:

- Food
- Emergency Preparedness
- Housing Crisis
- Available accessible transportation

## Groups Working on Issues:

- Emergency Assistance Work Group
- Partnership Gwinnett
- Gwinnett Police Department



# Community Relations and Engagement

## Priorities:

- Health and Human Service Agency Development
- Community Outreach to include: community involvement, volunteerism, leadership development, and sensitivity to our diverse community
- Community wide crime

## Groups Working on Issues:

- Gwinnett Great Days of Service
- Volunteer Gwinnett
- Partnership Gwinnett
- CID Village People
- Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- Gwinnett Nonprofit CEO Roundtable
- Gwinnett Police Department





# Economic and Financial Stability

## Priorities:

- **Income Growth and Stability**
- **Financial Management Education to include building savings and sustaining assets**
- **A healthy economy**

## Groups Working on Issues:

- **Partnership Gwinnett**
- **United Way**
- **Workforce Investment Board**

# Education

## Priorities:

- **Affordable and Accessible Adult Education to include: career training and retraining, ESL, lifelong learning for disabled adults**
- **Available and affordable quality early childhood care and education**

## Groups Working on Issues:

- **Literacy Gwinnett**
- **Coalition Disabilities Subcommittee**
- **Partnership Gwinnett**

# Health and Well-Being

## Priorities:

- Available, Affordable, Accessible Health care to include: facilities, finance/insurance, special populations
- Fitness and Nutrition to include: disease focus on obesity and diabetes
- Youth Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse and Violence

## Groups Working on Issues:

- Healthcare Taskforce
- Seniors Task Force
- Disabilities Subcommittee
- Drug Free Communities Task Force



# Safety

## Goal Areas:

- Crime and Family Violence Prevention
- Child Welfare Protection

## Groups Working on Issues:

- Family Violence Task Force
- Safety Subcommittee
- Youth Survey Committee





# Together We Can Build a Greater Gwinnett



# Overall Benefits

- **Economy of Scale – Thru collaboration we have achieved community level results.**
- **Leveraging Resources – Millions of dollars have been invested in community programs.**
- **Maximum Impact – is the result of comprehensive strategic planning and evaluation.**
- **Capacity Building – Together we have created a sense of community.**
- **Efficiency and Effectiveness – recognized as a model program making community level change.**



# Benefits to Community

- **Resource Development** – \$ for programs and services for Gwinnett citizens – Last year brought in over \$5 million for Gwinnett Health and Human Services.
- **Gwinnett Great Days of Service** - contributed over 432,000 volunteers in more than 1300 projects over the last 10 years = value of over \$20 million.



# Benefits to County

- Investment of around \$50,000 is matched thru federal, state, and other corporate donations at least tenfold to offer multiple services to Gwinnett citizens.
- Ten years ago, the Gwinnett County Commission put forth a resolution naming the Gwinnett Coalition as the official planner for children and families in Gwinnett. This has resulted in funders alignment and better efficiency and effectiveness and accountable results.





# Benefit to County

- **The Gwinnett Coalition works on behalf of the county to neutralize conflicts and encourage positive relations.**
- **The Gwinnett Coalition has been proactive in addressing community issues and has contributed to the welfare of our county.**
- **Many jobs have been created in partnering agencies due to collaboration and additional resources.**
- **Overall, Gwinnett County nonprofits like the Gwinnett Coalition are projected to provide an average of 5,966 jobs per year.**



# County Government/Education

## Enhance Gwinnett citizens' quality of life by:

- Supporting the Coalition's strategic planning process.
- Considering the Coalition's Strategic Plan when allocating County resources.
- Not competing as a provider of direct services.
- Supporting the development of an infrastructure that fosters collaboration.
- Encouraging County staff to work collaboratively with the community to develop a cost-effective service system that encourages volunteerism as well as federal, state, and private sector fiscal support.
- Comprehensive planning including health and human services to address quality of life issues



# Gwinnett Business

- **Get involved in Gwinnett Great Days of Service – sponsorship, volunteer teams, dollar makes a difference campaign**
- **Become a partner – board involvement, advocacy for policy.**
- **Win-win – get advice on worthy causes. Make a seat at corporate table.**
- **Employers encouraged to be healthy, family friendly workplace**



## Gwinnett Nonprofits/Other Interested Groups/Citizens

- **Providers of Service**
- **Advocates for Improvements**
- **Collaborates to Address Gaps**
- **Avoids Turf Issues**
- **Builds Trust Issues with Others**
- **Builds Partnerships**
- **Brings Voice for Disparate Groups**

# Acknowledgements

- **County's continuous support.**
- **County staff are among the best in the nation. Many have contributed their time, talents and treasures to the Gwinnett Coalition.**
- **The Gwinnett Coalition is a “world class initiative.” We often consult with other counties and organizations on how to be an effective collaborative. Let's continue to be the envy of the region, state, and nation.**



# Final Thoughts...WE NEED

- **Effective leadership, collaboration, and focus;**
- **Long-term sustainable investments at the state and local level;**
- **Policies and practices that are supportive of local decision-making;**
- **The use of data, best practices, and research as a strategy framework; and**
- **Intervention at the earliest points possible.**



# Final Thoughts

- **There is too much need for any one entity to be responsible for addressing.**
- **Through our proven method of private public partnerships, People Helping People, Together We Can Grow a Greater Gwinnett.**

# Conclusion

**Together We Have  
Together We Can**

