Understanding Metropolitan Neighborhood Change: Implications for Worthington

The Kirwan Institute seeks to create a just and inclusive society where all people and communities have the opportunity to succeed.

Metropolitan Neighborhood Change in Worthington by the Numbers

- **42%** (nearly 94 square miles) of the city of Columbus is serviced by suburban school districts.
- Columbus is the only major city in Ohio which has experienced positive population growth since the mid-1970s.
- The Hispanic/Latino population in the Worthington School District grew by 3% between 2009-2014.
- The white population in the Worthington School District declined by 8.2% between 2009 and 2014.
- The Worthington School District’s population grew **by over 4,500** between 2009 and 2015.
- The poverty rate in the Worthington School District grew from 4.76% to 6.60% between 2009 and 2014.
- The poverty rate at 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (the population eligible for service at the Worthington Resource Pantry) grew from 14.7% to 19.08% between 2009 and 2014.
- The Worthington Resource Pantry served **1,500 families** in the last year — that is a **25% increase** over the previous year.
- Household visits at the Worthington Resource Pantry were up **21%** over the previous year.
- 43% of the households that visited the Worthington Resource Pantry last year have children in the home.
- The Smoky Row Pantry served **6,156 households** in 2016.
- The Smoky Row Pantry saw a **50% increase** in demand between 2012 & 2016.

Important Terms

**Implicit Bias**: The attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.

**Structural Racialization**: A systems approach to understanding the causes and consequences of racial inequality.

**Opportunity**: A situation or condition that places individuals in a position to be more likely to succeed or excel.

**NIMBY/NIMBYism**: Not-In-My-Backyard. A term for a person who opposes undesirable types of development close to their home but recognizes the need for this type of development elsewhere.

**Zoning**: The separation of land use by government.

**Redlining**: To assess an area as “risky” based on the racial, ethnic, and/or religious identity of the people living in the area and deny loans to people residing in or investing in that area.

**Racially Restrictive Covenants**: A covenant imposed to restrict sale of a property from people of specific racial or ethnic groups.

**Steering**: The practice in which real estate agents guide prospective homebuyers towards or away from certain neighborhood based on their race.

**Blockbusting**: A real estate development practice in which realtors would convince white homeowners to sell their homes at low prices through the promotion of fear that minorities would soon move into the neighborhood.

**Urban Renewal**: Policies directed at the redevelopment of large swaths of a city and involve slum clearance.

**Common Areas**: Portions of Columbus serviced by suburban school districts.

**Win-Win**: A 1986 agreement that recoupled school district transfers to municipal annexations and made all existing boundaries permanent.

**Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**: A partnership approach to research that values different kinds of knowledge and equitably involves both researchers and community members in all aspects of the research process.
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