

COMPLEX COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES DEMAND PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION

As signs of recovery in the national economy slowly emerge, community and economic development practitioners and stakeholders are taking stock of a new landscape, new realities, and new opportunities. Doing more with less is not a new paradigm for community and economic development professionals, but if we are truly seeking innovative solutions to complex community and economic development issues, we can no longer afford to think in silos—we have to put it all together.

In 2011, fully integrated partnerships will be necessary. This means economic developers, community developers, workforce boards, education stakeholders, and local government representatives must come to the table ready to learn new perspectives, identify winning compromises, and execute ideas. This issue's cover story on the 12 for Life program in Carroll County, Ga., highlights just this kind of partnership, in which businesses, educators, and local government united to address low high school graduation rates and create a ready workforce. Our "CED Roundtable," with Dr. Rolando Montoya and Mr. Jim King, also identifies robust industry partnerships as a critical factor in allowing community and technical colleges to provide timely and relevant training programs to meet the immediate needs of local businesses.

The Community and Economic Development function at the Atlanta Fed is embracing its own new normal. This issue of *Partners in Community and Economic Development* is our last regular printed issue. We will be a presence in our sister publication, *EconSouth*, continuing to publish timely stories and research of interest to you, our community and economic development partners. We will also be making the most of our online presence at www.frbatlanta.org/commdev/, and using other technology to bring research and best practices to you. We will be developing webinars, producing additional podcasts, and creating more frequent online content.

In 2011, we will continue to focus on foreclosure, neighborhood stabilization, and small business issues, and also deepen our work around employment-related issues. Our work addressing financial literacy will eventually transition to the new Consumer Finance Protection Bureau. Despite the changes ahead, one thing remains the same: the Atlanta Fed is still a trusted source of information, data, and analysis for community and economic development stakeholders.



TODD GREENE

Vice President,
Community and Economic
Development, and Community
Affairs Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Greene". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.