
Press Release

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As poverty levels rise, regional leaders gather today to discuss the “new normal”

LOS ANGELES – Several hundred regional leaders, planners and economic experts will gather in Los Angeles on Monday to discuss that alarming trend and what is being done in the areas of education, training, job growth and state policies to address the “new normal.”

“The actual trends in poverty after the recession are quite alarming in some respects, but there are also hopeful signs,” said Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments.

SCAG and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy are co-hosting the workshop, “Demographics of Poverty and Progress after the Recession,” at the USC Davidson Conference Center, 3415 S. Figueroa St. The event begins at 7:45 a.m. and will feature discussions on population and demographic trends.

The workshop comes as calls grow louder – regionally, statewide and nationally – to reverse the disturbing growth in poverty over the past half century.

In December, SCAG reported that between 1990 and 2012, the share of residents in the six-county region who were living below the federal poverty level rose from 13 percent to 18 percent, and that today, one in every four children live in poverty.

Speakers at Monday’s workshop include Raphael Bostic, Professor and Director, Bedrosian Center for Governance, USC Price School of Public Policy (luncheon keynote); Sarah Bohn, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California; John Husing, Chief Economist, Inland Empire Economic Partnership; Dowell Myers, Professor, USC Price School of Public Policy; and Frank Wen, Manager of Research & Analysis, Southern California Association of Governments.

Afternoon roundtables will provide participants with new information about diverse demographic topics: migration in population forecasts, income inequality trends from a regional housing policy standpoint, birth trends in Los Angeles County, and potential health impacts.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.