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## More recommendations expected from Metro-York

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York Dispatch

Article Last Updated: 09/20/2007 10:47:15 AM EDT

Though area officials are already looking into the idea of a regional police department, other recommendations by the Metro-York working group won't be released in detail until November, when the group's report will offer advice for reforming taxation, education and local government.

The Metro-York group, an initiative of YorkCounts, has been meeting for more than a year looking for solutions to problems in York City and nearby municipalities, including concentrated poverty and unequal tax bases.

"It's no secret that some of these municipalities, some of these school districts, are facing tough times," said YorkCounts director James DeBord. "And we're trying to bring together communities, trying to bring together municipalities so we can do something about it positively."

Among the recommendations, as described by DeBord:

--- Reforming York-area taxation to distribute the cost of municipal government more evenly among taxpayers;

--- Getting municipalities to work together on land-use planning with a regional focus;

--- Undertaking a "major initiative" to break up the concentration of poverty in the area, with housing as a main element;

--- Creating school programs, such as magnet programs, that would draw higher-income students into lower-income areas and vice-versa;

--- Making the educational system more flexible, which could ease overcrowding at York-area schools and cut dropout rates by meeting the diverse needs of students.

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