

YorkCounts – York County’s community-based quality-of-life coalition – in 2006 launched a project known as **Metro-York**.

The project has been aimed at generating specific ideas to improve municipal finances and education in the heart of York County. The idea is to do something no other lead organization is doing comprehensively: zero in on the roots of regional problems and suggest regional solutions.

First, Metro-York Workgroup participants heard from state and national experts and engaged in research and discussion of the underlying causes.

All agree that a concentration of poverty is burdening York with major financial, educational and socioeconomic problems, particularly in the inner core. Crime rates are rising – and so are the costs associated with fighting crime. Property taxes are high. Opportunities are limited, particularly for African-Americans and Latinos, whose median incomes in the city are \$22,600 and \$19,300 respectively. The city school system, despite Herculean efforts, struggles to cope with the ramifications of these trends. The result is that some are leaving the core of the county, while those left behind, especially our children, face tremendous obstacles to success.

At the same time, “small box” divisions between school and governmental entities make for inflexible systems, from education to taxation. Revenue and spending inequities prevail.

The prosperity of all of York County is threatened, and only a regional approach can make this a better and stronger community. Metro-York Workgroup participants realized that the need was for solutions that would address both the concentration of poverty and its effects and the unequal funding streams that perpetuate these conditions.

The output of the Metro-York Workgroups was delivered to the YorkCounts Board, which adopted this document.

Now YorkCounts, together with our community partners, is proud to present these recommendations.

