Remaking the Economy

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Steve Dubb, Nonprofit Quarterly
Cornelius Blanding, Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Bill Bynum, Hope Enterprise Corporation
Leonette Henderson, Higher Purpose Co.
Shirley Sherrod, Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc.
#RebuildTheEconomy
Why have an *NPQ* Series on Remaking the Economy?

- Build awareness
- Identify examples
- Question narratives
- Highlight pathways
- Emphasize links
Where is the Black Belt? Two Definitions

“Southern Black Belt”

THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA MAP:
Black Belt: Growing Political Clout

During the turbulent 1960s, black population growth ground to a halt in the South, and Southern states claimed less than 10 percent of the national increase then. The South has increasingly claimed a greater share of black population growth since -- about half the country's total in the 1970s, two-thirds in the 1990s and three-quarters in the decade that just ended.

The shift could significantly strengthen the political power of African-Americans in the South, especially in the historic Black Belt stretching from the mid-Atlantic to east Texas. Here's a map showing where the South's growing African-American communities are concentrated, according to the latest Census data:

A glimpse of the political force this represents was seen in 2008, when record-breaking African-American turnout helped push Florida, North Carolina and Virginia into blue territory. It's also seen in Georgia, the epicenter of the Black Belt, where the African-American community grew by more than 579,000 since 2000 -- the leading ingredient in making it the seventh-fastest growing state in the country. The 2010 Census also offers a glimpse of how Southern African-American communities are changing. Atlanta echoes a trend found across the South and country, where suburban black neighborhoods are growing at the expense of the urban core. The New York Times notes that "just 2 percent of the black population growth in the last decade occurred in counties that have traditionally been black population centers." African-Americans moving South also tend to be young: 40 percent of those moving to Southern states in the 2010 Census count were ages 21 to 40. Meaning that the political force of the latest phase of African-American reverse-migration South will be felt for years to come.

The U.S. Census definition of "the South" includes Alabama, Arkansas, D.C., Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The Institute for Southern Studies typically does not include DC, DE, MD and OK in its definition.

[Map showing percentage of African American population by county]
Economy Building in the Black Belt and Delta

1. Federation of Southern Cooperatives (Federation)

2. HOPE

3. Higher Purpose Co.
Remaking the Economy: 2019-2020 webinar season

NPQ goes on the (virtual) road

New Mexico
10-17-2019

Indian Country
11-21-2019

Los Angeles
1-16-2020

Black Belt/Miss. Delta
2-20-2020

Buffalo
3-19-2020

Fresno/Central Valley
4-16-2020

Chicago
5-21-2020

And beyond!
Overview

The Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund is a non-profit, cooperative association, involving 20,000 low income rural families, organized into more than 75 cooperatives, credit unions and community based economic development groups across the South.
Our History/Background

• Cooperatives and credit unions were organized before, during and after the civil rights movement in the 60’s to address the basic necessities and survival of people in the community.

• Many of these cooperatives from all over the south came together in 1966 at the Mt. Beulah Center in Mississippi for a meeting to share experiences and discuss the possibility of expanding the cooperative movement in the south.

• FSC was organized in 1967 at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA by 22 cooperatives as a direct outgrowth of the civil rights movement.
Our Mission

We strive toward the development of self-supporting communities through cooperative economic development, land retention and advocacy.
Areas of Focus

- Cooperative Economic Development
- Land Retention
- Advocacy

Farmers Sorting Sweet Potatoes at Grand Marie Cooperative - Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana
Our Challenge Statement
(re: Black Land Loss)

- In 1910-218,000 black farmers owning 15 million acres of land.

- According to the 1992 Census, only 18,000 black farmers owning roughly 2.3 million acres of land.
Poverty and Race in America

Source: Library of Congress

Decades in Poverty

Source: Rural Policy Research Institute; Center for Applied Research & Environmental Studies
Implications of Persistent Poverty

- Majority Black: Counties above state average
- Unemployment: More than 1.5 times the national average
- High-Cost Mortgage Lending: Counties above state average
- Education: Low-Performing School Districts
- County Health Rankings: Lowest 25% by state
- Unbanked: More than 1.5 times the national average
Financial Inclusion Offices

Five states, 33 locations, 83% in majority Black counties

ALABAMA
- Montgomery
  Arba Street
  McGehee Road

ARKANSAS
- College Station
- Little Rock
  I-30 SW
  Geyer Springs
- Pine Bluff
- West Memphis

LOUISIANA
- Baton Rouge
- New Orleans
  Central City
  Elysian Fields
  Michoud

TENNESSEE
- Jackson
- Memphis
  Crosstown
  Harvester Lane
  Madison Avenue
  Ridgeway

MISSISSIPPI
- Biloxi
- Drew
- Greenville
- Itta Bena
- Jackson
  East River Place
  Medical Mall
  Old River Place
  Provine High School
  University Boulevard
- Louisville
- Macon
- Moorhead
- Robinsonville
- Shaw
- Terry
- Utica
- West Point
# Financial Inclusion in Itta Bena

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Itta Bena, MS</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median HH Income</td>
<td>$20,417</td>
<td>$60,293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unbanked / Underbanked</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black (%)</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
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</tbody>
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From Moments...

...to a Movement.

CivilTech (Engineering)
McMillan’s First Step (Child Care Center)
Safe Spot (Pest Control)
Brittany Williams (Home Health Service)
Hill and Sons (Ag Co-Op)
The mission of Higher Purpose Co. is to build community wealth with Black residents in Mississippi by supporting the ownership of financial, cultural, and political power.

Our theory of change is anchored by an integrated model: asset building, narrative change, and advocacy.
Building a network of Black Entrepreneurs

Our definition of Black Entrepreneurs is inclusive of:
- Worker owners, farmers, artists, and creatives
- Black residents who identify as women, rural, millennials, and returning citizens

Four Priority Areas:
- Food/Agriculture
- Health/Wellness
- Education
- Arts/Culture
Structural Change:
Higher Purpose Funding Network

Higher Purpose Co. Hosts Historic Convening
Launching the First Funding Network For
Black Entrepreneurs in Mississippi
Structural Change: Higher Purpose HQ

Higher Purpose HQ will be a 13,000 square feet regional community wealth hub in the downtown Clarksdale, Mississippi.
Thank you for joining us!

*Nonprofit Quarterly* relies on your generous support. If you enjoyed this webinar, please consider donating today!

https://nonprofitquarterly.networkforgood.com/

Tell us what you thought! Use our special hashtag, #RebuildTheEconomy