

The Realities of Poverty in Delaware, 2003 - 2004

Ken Smith

The Delaware Housing Coalition took over the task of publishing the bi-annual Realities of Poverty in Delaware from the Public Assistance Taskforce (PAT), at the request of Alice Brandreth and Olga Ramirez, when that group decided to formally dissolve in 2002. DHC has been proud to have been entrusted with the task of continuing an important piece of advocacy and community education by a group which was known for many years for its defense of more generous social provisions for the Delawareans most severely dealt with by the vacillations of the economy and the vagaries of public policy.

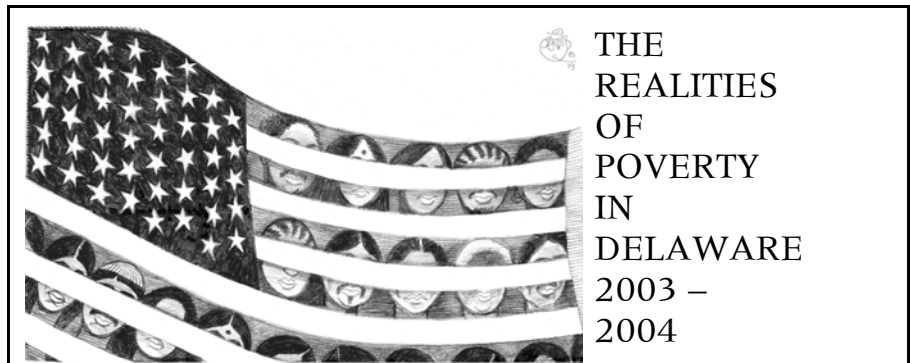
The new edition is blessed with a wealth of contributions from many practitioners and long-time close observers of the problem of poverty in the state.

The publication was co-edited by Cara Armbrister of the Graduate School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy of the University of Delaware, who also contributed an article on the increase in the concentration of poverty in selected Wilmington census tracts, a phenomenon which runs counter to larger national trends.

This publication was made possible by Citigroup Foundation through its Citigroup Summer Internship Program in both 2002 and 2003. Terri Hasson is Vice President for Community Affairs for Citicorp Bank in Delaware.

It was also made possible by a grant from the Housing Capacity Building Program to cover staff and publication costs. The Housing Capacity Building Program is a statewide partnership led by the Delaware Community Investment Corporation, the Delaware State Housing Authority, and the Center for Community Research and Service of the University of Delaware.

The publication is available in a bound version for \$8 (\$4 for DHC members) or \$15 for the CD.



Contents

SECTION ONE: POVERTY AND THE MOST VULNERABLE

The Confluence of Poverty and Disability, Daniel Atkins & Christie Giusti
Children in Poverty in Delaware, Teresa Schooley
The Economic Status of Single Mothers in Delaware, Christen Brownell
Elderly and Consumer Fraud, Deborah Gottschalk
Race, Poverty and the Breaking of the Social Contract, Ivory Copeland
Another Kind of Poverty: Immigrants, Clémence Overall

SECTION TWO: POVERTY'S IMPACT

Food Security, Karen A. Curtis
Deafening Silence, Jocelyn Taliaferro
The Need for Criminal Justice Reform, Ellen Wasfi
Unmet Needs of the Poor: Health Care Coverage, Alice Brandreth
Predatory Lending, Rashmi Rangan
The Concentration of Poverty: Wilmington, Delaware, Cara Armbrister
Payday Lenders, Marlena Melhunek

SECTION THREE: SHELTER AND POVERTY

Residential Segregation Persists, Leland Ware
The Rock of Poverty and the Hard Place of Rural Housing, Karen Speakman
The Housing Wage, Marlena Melhunek
Organizing for Change in Affordable Housing, Tina Riley
The Persistence of Homelessness & the Invisible Homeless, Steven Peuquet
The Right to Housing, Gina Miserendino

SECTION FOUR: POVERTY AND NONPROFIT MISSION

Impact of Welfare Reform on Nonprofits, Karen A. Curtis & Ivory Copeland
The Nonprofit Provision of Housing for the Poor, Joe L. Myer
Decision Making in Impoverished Communities, Theresa Hasson
Turning the Wheel of Liberation, Ken Smith

SECTION FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS