

INCOME and POVERTY RVAMPO Demographic Profile



FY 2004-2005

Introduction

Staff of the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), the lead staffing agency of the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVAMPO), is in the process of generating a series of demographic profiles to identify special needs populations in the region and to ensure the MPO's organizational compliance with federal non-discrimination authorities.

One such authority, Executive Order 12898, issued by President Clinton in 1994, requires that federal agencies and other entities making use of federal funding avoid “disproportionately high and adverse” effects on minority and low-income populations and to seek involvement of the public toward the ends of ensuring environmental justice in governmental operations.

Executive Order 12898 adds low-income populations to a list of several groups granted special federal protections from discrimination in federally funded programs. Executive Order 12898, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal non-discrimination authorities prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, national origin, race, color, and disability.

What does this mean to the RVAMPO?

The RVAMPO must take steps to ensure that it is not unintentionally discriminating against low-income individuals in any of its activities. By following the RVARC and RVAMPO Public Involvement Policy, staff will be ensuring that low-income populations are accommodated and have the opportunity to voice concerns and policy preferences in public meetings. Attempting to use existing neighborhood groups as a vehicle for the collection of public comments and as an avenue for public participation will also help in the area of ensuring the participation of low-income individuals, for not only will the meetings generally be held in the evenings after the close of the regular workday but staff will also be reaching out to the region's neighborhoods by going to the neighborhood center where such meetings are generally held.

Potential effects upon low-income areas must also be considered throughout the planning process. This information should be provided to the MPO Policy Board, transportation planning staff at the RVARC, and other assorted technical and advisory groups to guide the planning process so as to avoid any disproportionately high and/or adverse effects upon low-income individuals. Information such as this should also be incorporated into each update to the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRTP) produced by the RVAMPO, as the CLRTP should address any concerns with environmental justice in the region.

Map 1, included in the Appendix, shows geographic concentrations of individuals who are below the federal poverty level, according to the US Census Bureau. Concentrations of poverty exist in the South Jefferson area, in the City's downtown area, and in sections

of Southeast and Northwest Roanoke. There are also some notable levels of poverty in areas bordering the rural portions of the region.

Once again, it is recommended by the staff that this information be integrated into the planning process. It should be provided to all staff involved in transportation planning, to advisory groups, and to policymakers.

APPENDIX

Demographic Profile

Map 1
Percent Under
National Poverty Line
By Block Group
Within MPO
2025 Study Area



Legend

Percent Under Poverty

