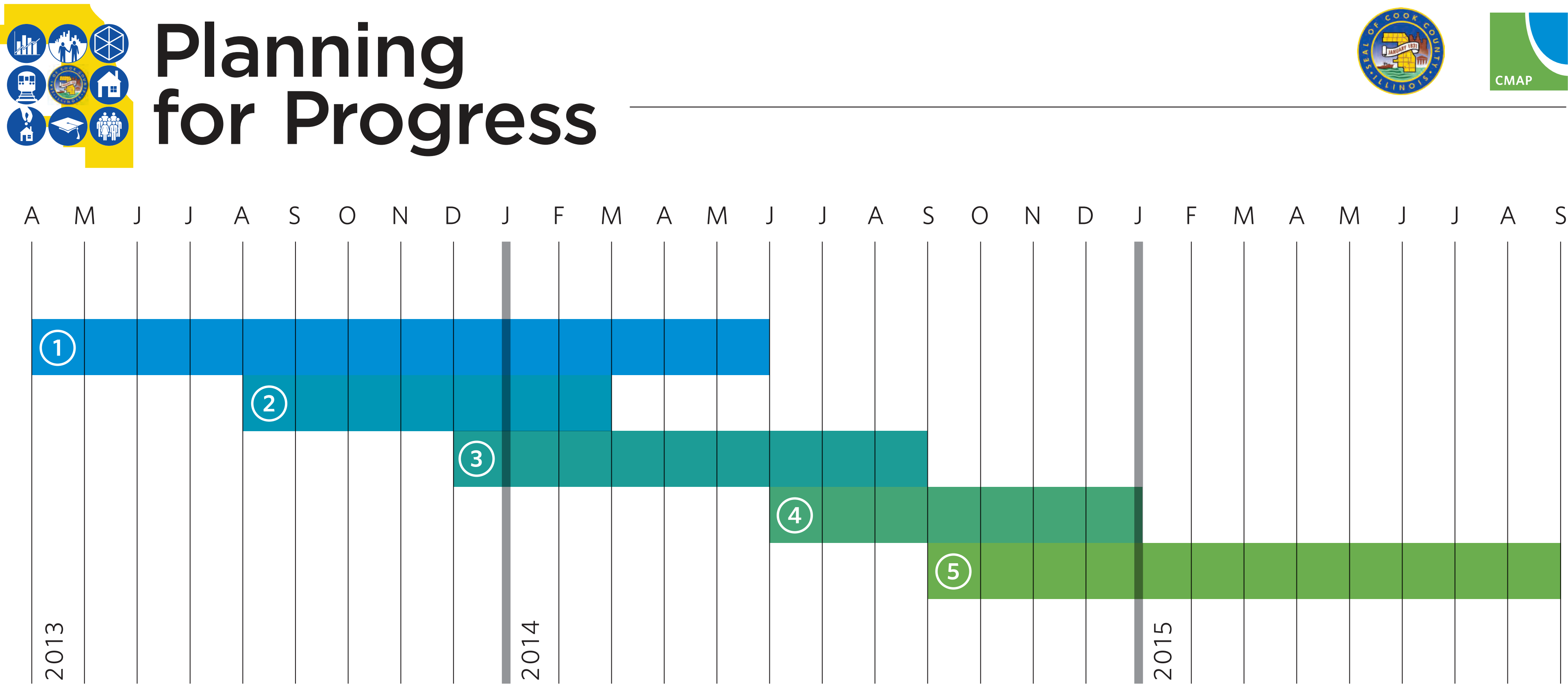


Introduction:

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED) wants to hear about the issues that impact and concern you the most. This information will help BED develop a new plan, Planning for Progress. This plan will guide funding requests, investments, and partnerships over the next five years around community development, affordable housing, and economic development.

The following posters outline some topical information to spur thinking about potential needs in southern Cook County along with the five broad categories of projects and programs on which BED can focus. Tell us which issues matter the most and what projects or programs you think would best address them in southern Cook County.



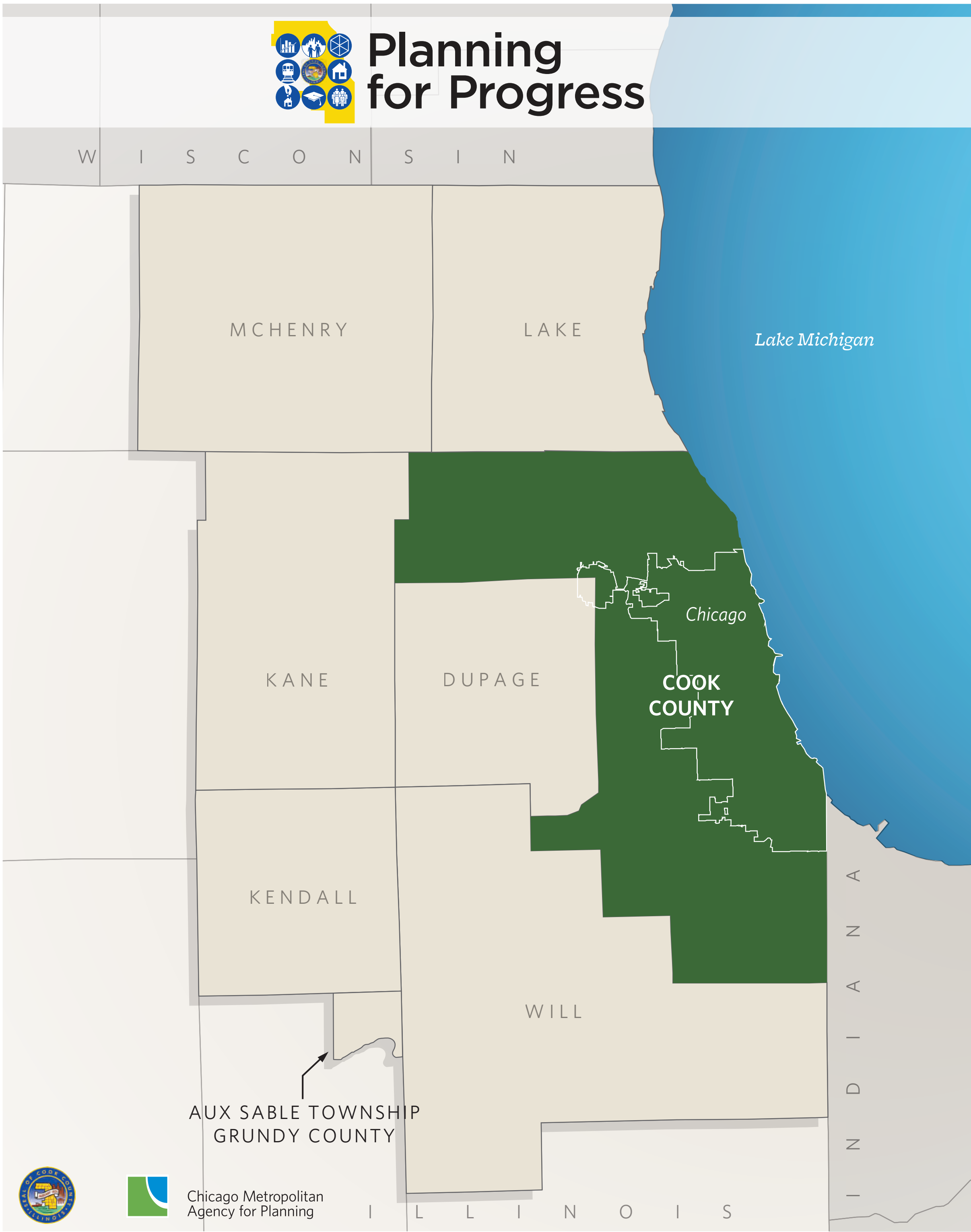
1. Phase 1: Project Orientation

2. Phase 2: Existing Conditions Evaluation

3. Phase 3: Priority Area Planning
4. Phase 4: Creating the Plans

*5. Phase 5: Public Review and Approval




*Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is due to the Economic Development Association (EDA) on February 5, 2015 and the Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) is due to HUD by August 15, 2015.

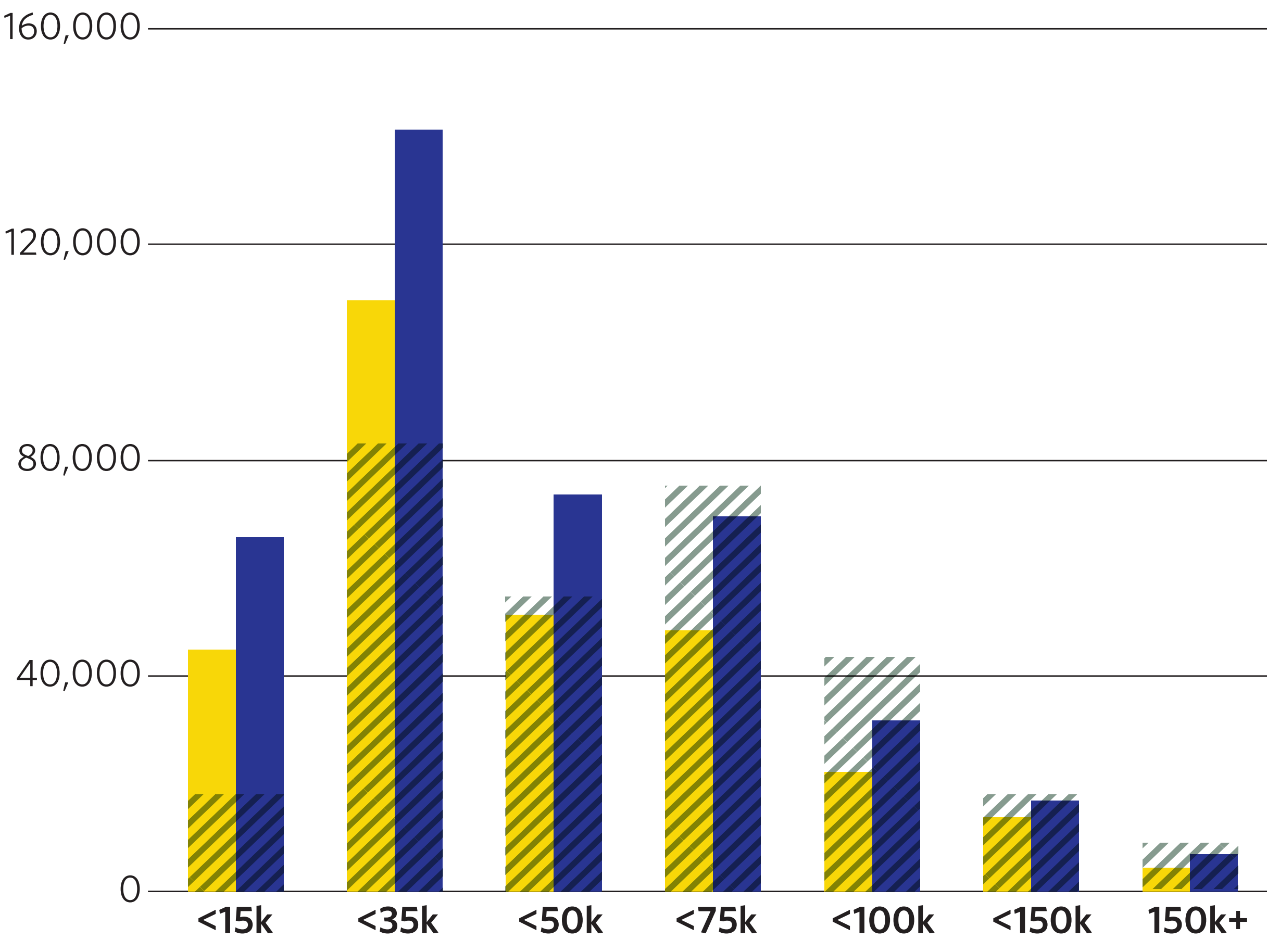


Accommodating population growth:

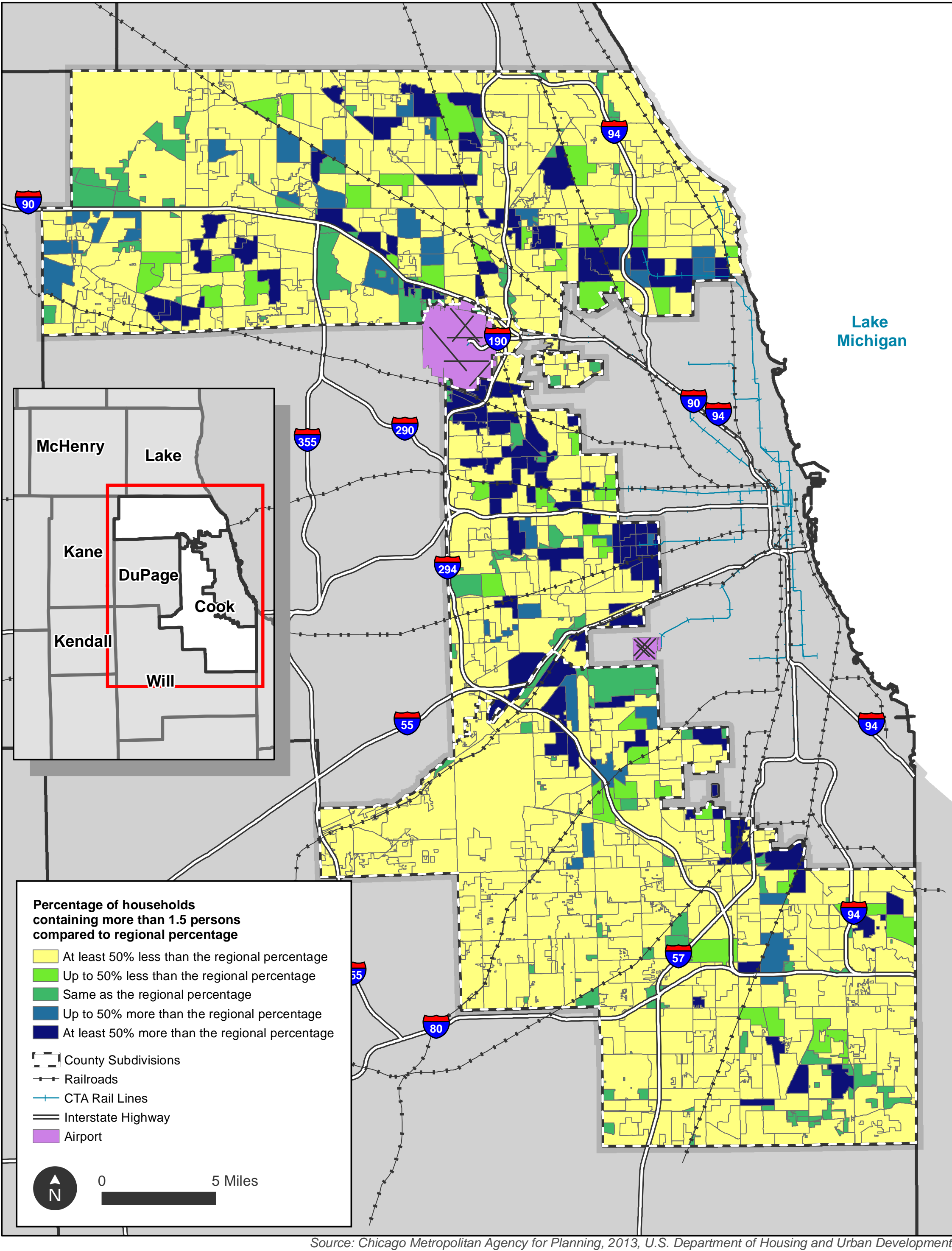
CMAP projects that between 2010 and 2040 southern Cook County could add almost 90,000 households. The chart to the right compares current housing supply with future housing demand. **What types of housing at what income levels would be necessary to meet the needs of future residents?** Southern Cook County may need additional units affordable to households earning less than \$50,000 or these people may add to the number of cost-burdened owners and renters.

Southern Cook County 2010 households and housing stock compared with 2040 demand

-  OCCUPIED HOUSING STOCK AFFORDABLE AT 30% OF INCOME (2010)
-  DEMAND AT INCOME LEVEL (2010)
-  PROJECTED DEMAND AT INCOME LEVEL (2040)



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of Fregonese Envision Tomorrow Balanced Housing Model using American Community Survey 2006-10 and CMAP GO TO 2040 household forecast inputs.



Part of accommodating growth is ensuring that current residents who are overcrowded can find alternate housing options. Fewer households are overcrowded (live in a unit with more than 1.5 persons per room) in suburban Cook County than the region. Yet, some areas of the County contain higher concentrations of crowded units. **Should the County help tackle this issue?**

Housing affordability:

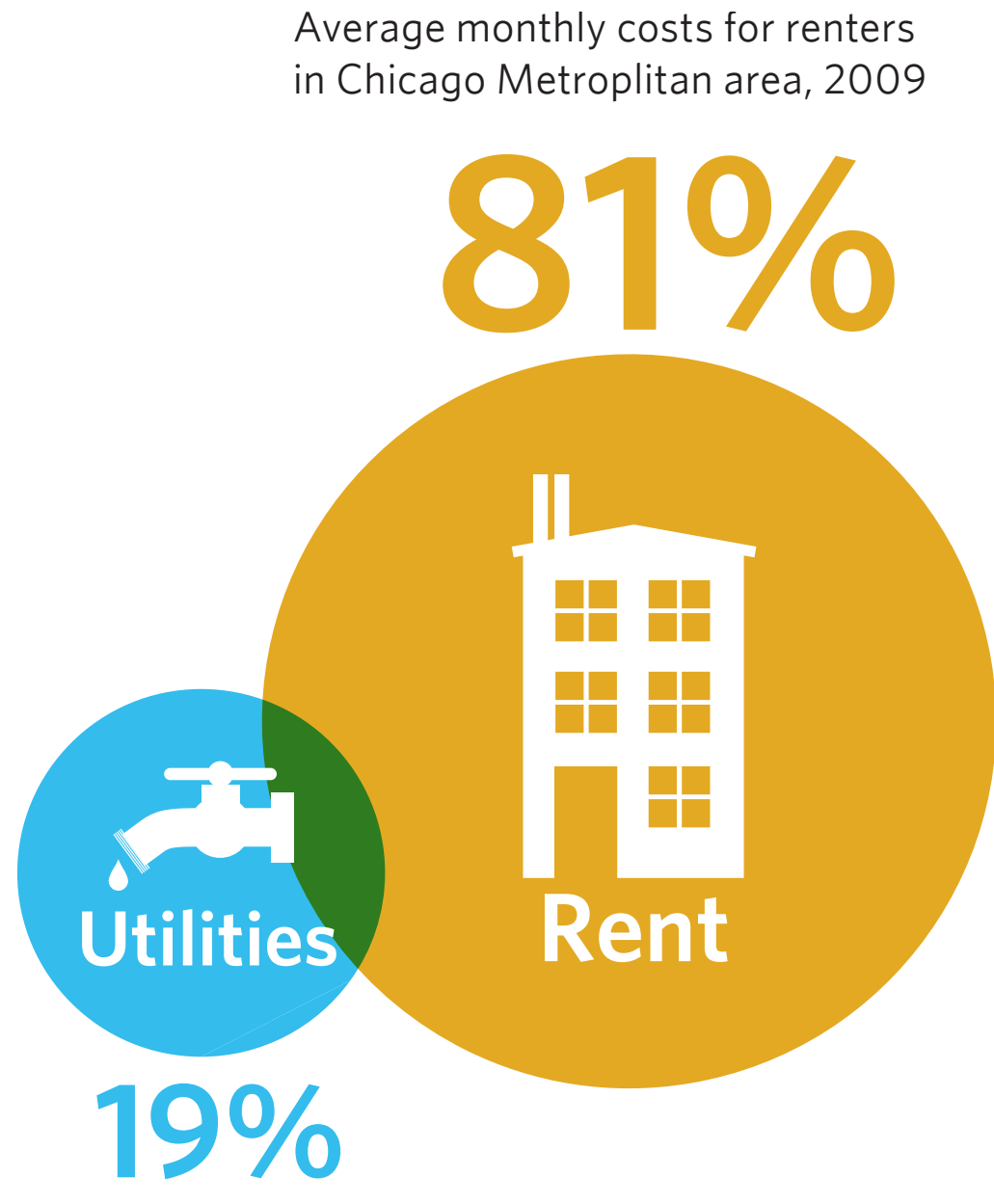
What constitutes “affordable housing” varies from household to household, as the measure is relative. A general rule of thumb is that an affordable housing unit is one that a family can own or rent for no more than 30 percent of its income. This spending includes both housing (rent or mortgage) and housing-related costs, such as property taxes, insurance, and utilities.

A lack of affordable housing can impact a community in many ways, reducing the money available to shop at local stores, harming economic competitiveness as employers struggle with employee recruitment and retention, even reducing the physical and mental health of people living in such circumstances.

The US Census indicates that about 40% of households in both suburban Cook County and the region pay more than 30% of their monthly income on housing costs. This similarity masks big differences by geography. In some sections of the County far higher percentages of households are cost-burdened. **How should Cook County help cost-burdened households? Should we focus on specific geographies?**

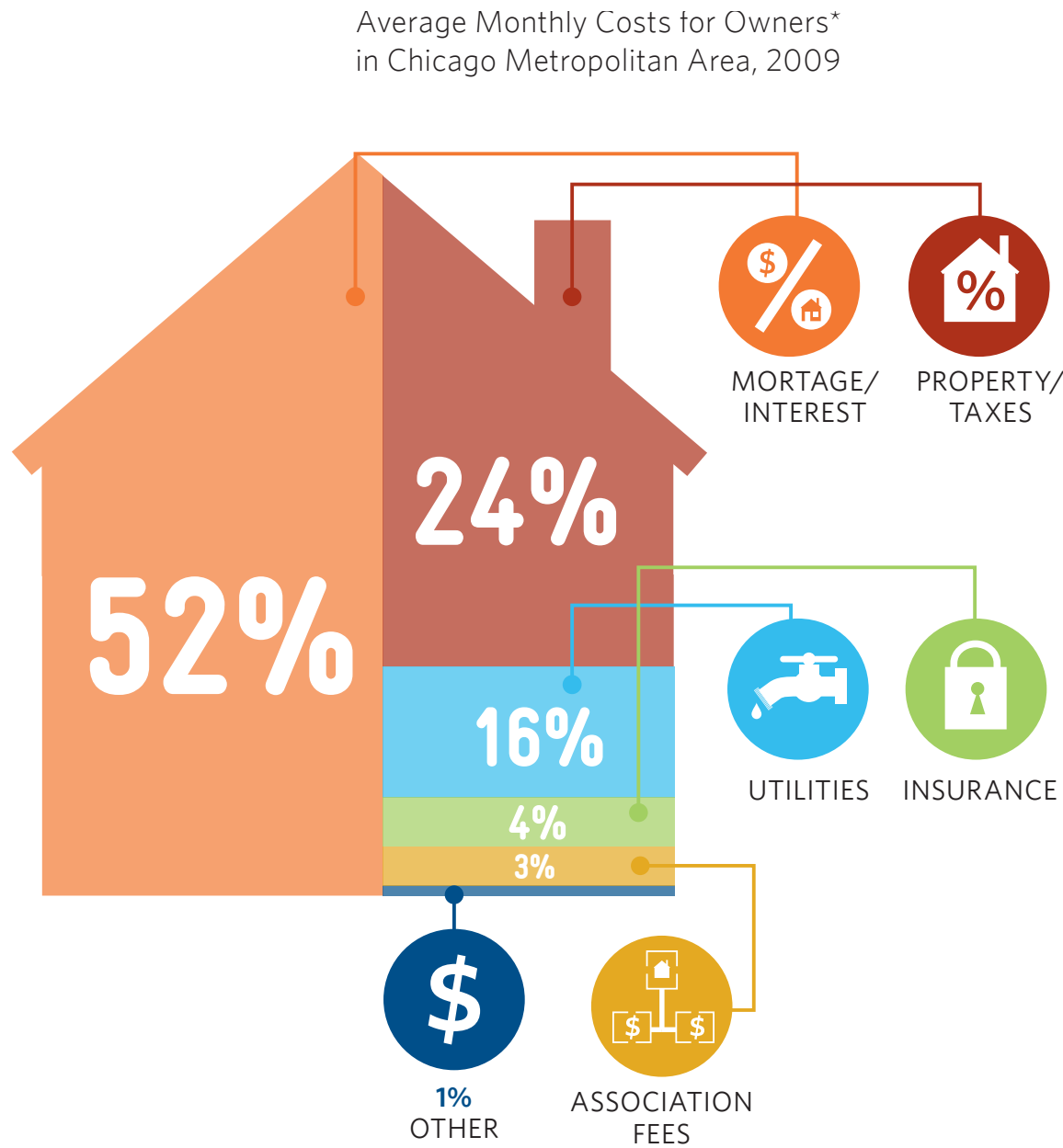
The parts of housing costs

Gross rent includes rent plus utility/fuel costs (electricity, natural gas, heating oil, water, sewer, etc.). This chart provides a breakdown of how much each component contributes to gross rent on average in the region.*

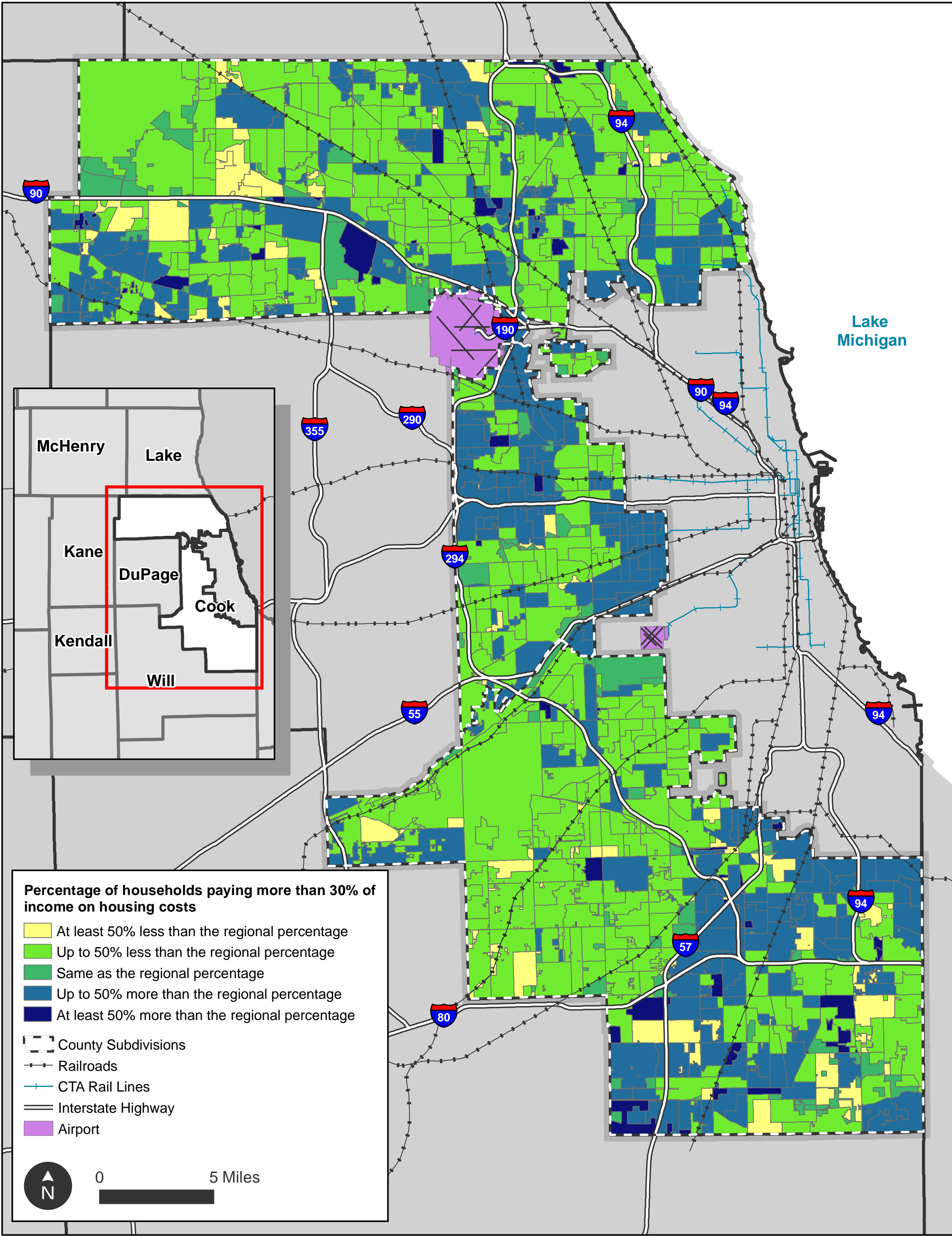


Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of the 2009 American Housing Survey.
*The 2009 AHS data includes Cook County, DuPage County, Grundy County, Kane County, Kendall County, Lake County, McHenry County, and Will County in the metropolitan area.

Monthly owner costs include mortgage payment, property taxes, various types of property insurance (e.g. homeowners insurance), utility/fuel costs (electricity, natural gas, heating oil, water, sewer, etc.), and homeowner association fees. This chart provides a breakdown of how much each component contributes to monthly owner costs on average in the region.**



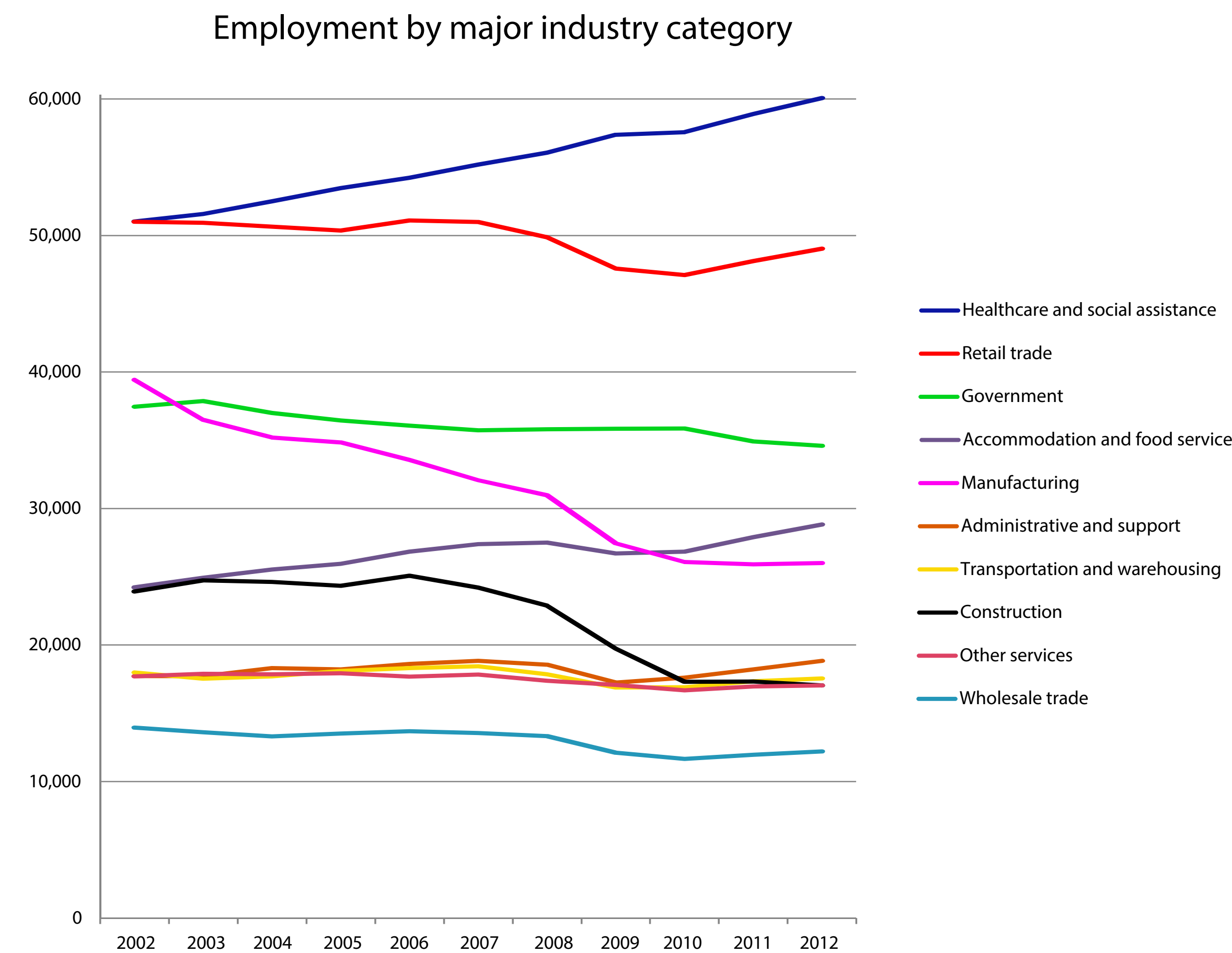
Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2009 American Housing Survey.
*Only includes owners that paid property taxes and homeowners insurance separate from their mortgage.
**The 2009 AHS data includes Cook County, DuPage County, Grundy County, Kane County, Kendall County, Lake County, McHenry County, and Will County in the metropolitan area.



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

What industries are growing?

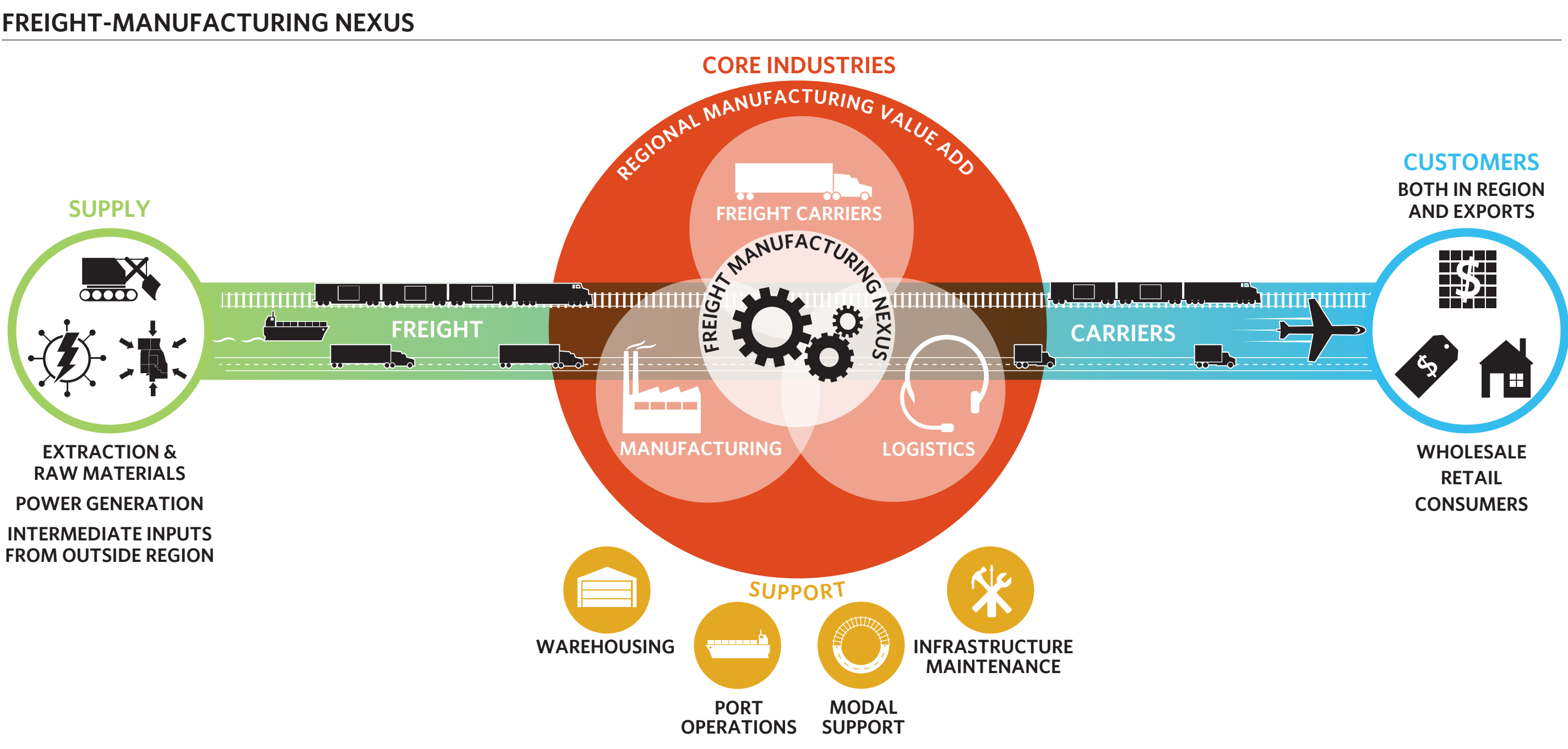
The number of jobs in southern Cook County decreased by six percent from 2002-2012, though several industries are now growing; healthcare and social assistance is the largest industry and has grown by 18 percent over the last decade.



Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

Freight- manufacturing nexus

Industries do not work in silos. Instead many work together, reinforcing strengths. For example, the freight-manufacturing nexus (in the center, within the red circle) consists of three core industries—manufacturing firms, freight carriers, and logistics providers—that together enable regional value-add in the manufacturing process. These core nexus industries are responsible for transforming inputs from supply industries (on the left, in green) into goods consumed by customer industries (on the right, in blue). Lastly, support industries (below the core, in yellow) provide essential services to the core.



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Prospective job opportunities

While it is impossible to know for certain what occupations will have the most opportunities in the future, past trends can help estimate future positions. This chart shows the occupations requiring some post-secondary education with the most projected opportunities from 2012-2022.

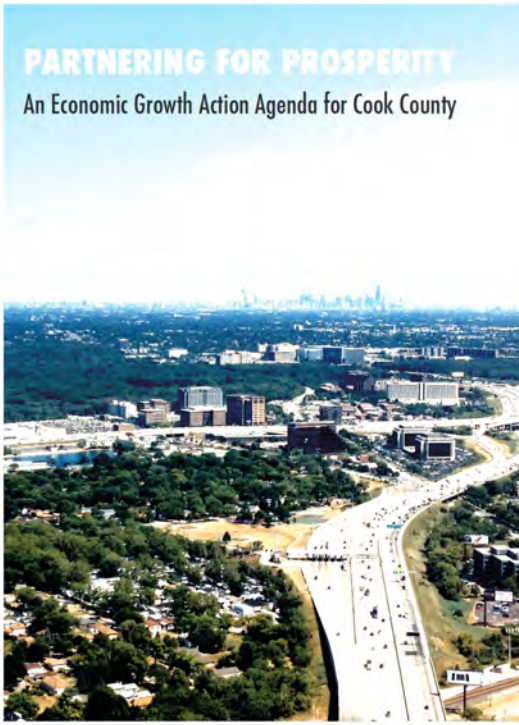
Prospective job opportunities- southern Cook County			
Occupation	Projected increase in jobs 2012-2022	Projected openings 2012-2022	Median hourly earnings (2012)
Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners	1,826	5,387	\$43
Preschool, Primary, Secondary, and Special Education School Teachers	1,585	4,729	\$30
Material Moving Workers	52	4,324	\$12
Motor Vehicle Operators	1,394	4,148	\$18
Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides	2,530	3,968	\$11

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

Jobs and industry:



Planning for Progress

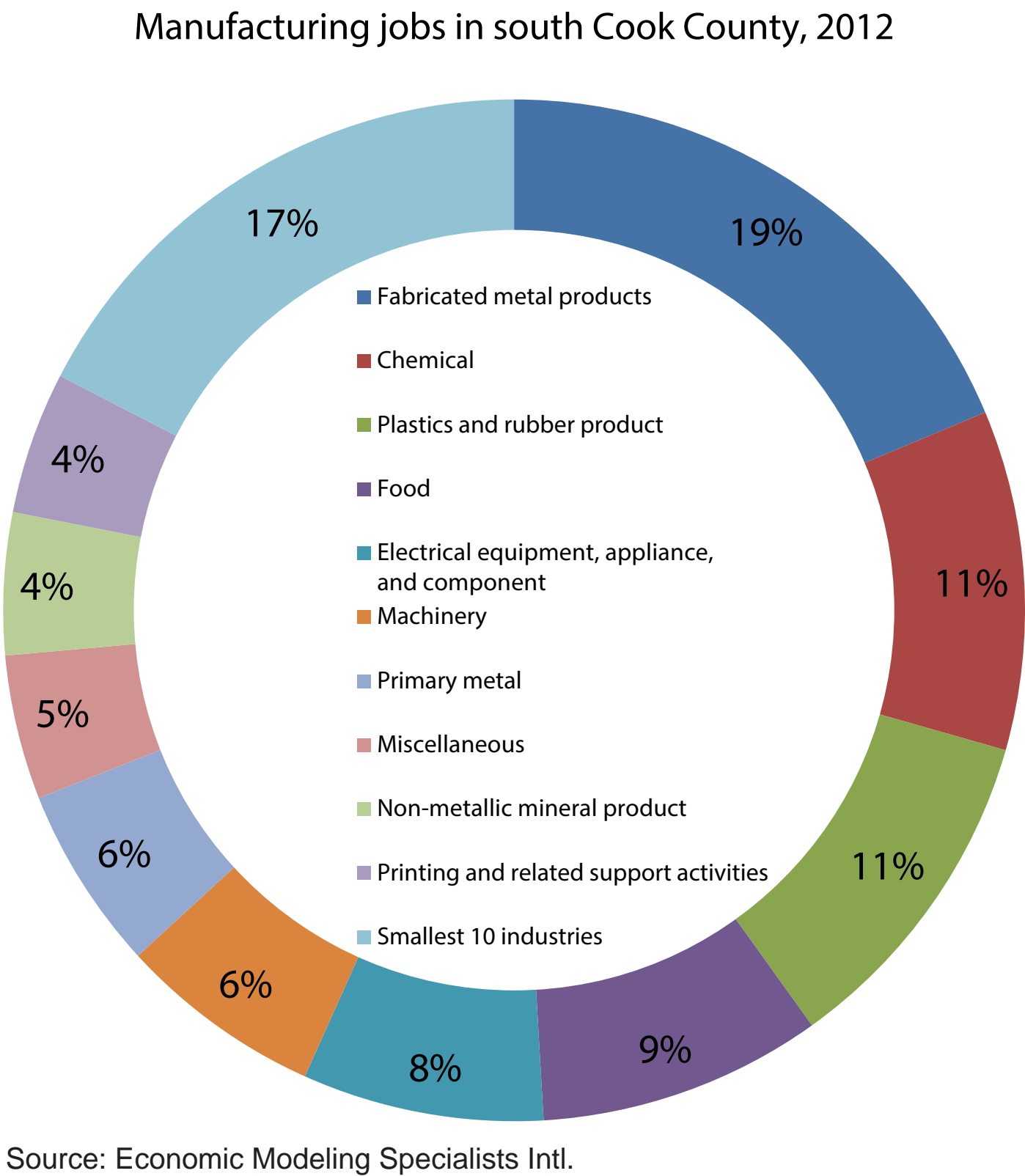


Partnering for Prosperity

In Partnering for Prosperity, Cook County laid out an agenda for boosting growth by targeting key sectors, including fabricated metal manufacturing, food processing and packaging, freight and logistics, and health care. *Which of these sectors should we be focusing on in southern Cook County, if any?*

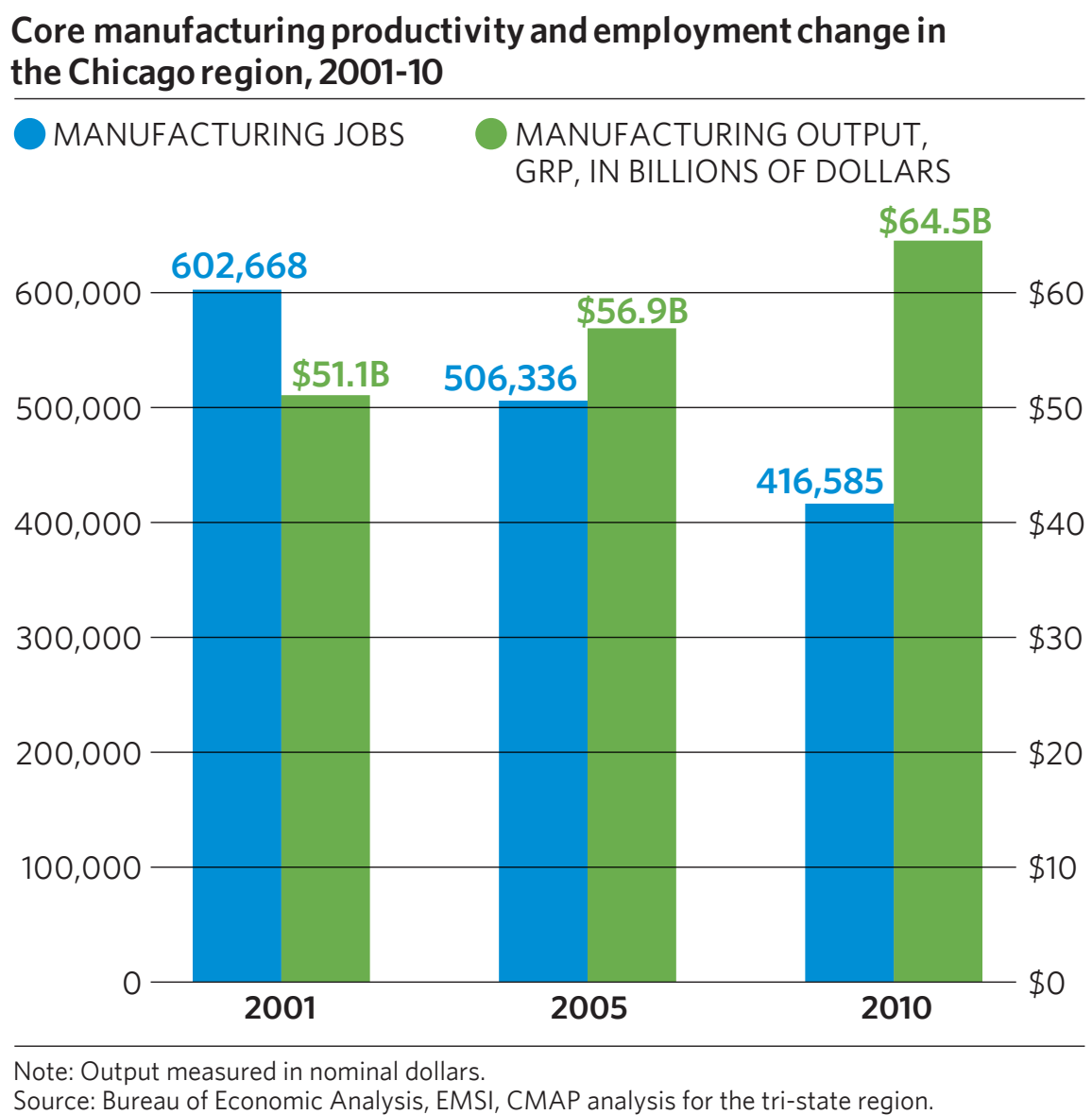
Manufacturing

Manufacturing is an important industry to the County and employs nearly 25,000 in the south suburbs, almost one fifth of whom are employed in fabricated metal production. Technological advances increase productivity, but also mean that manufacturing jobs require specialized training and pay higher wages.



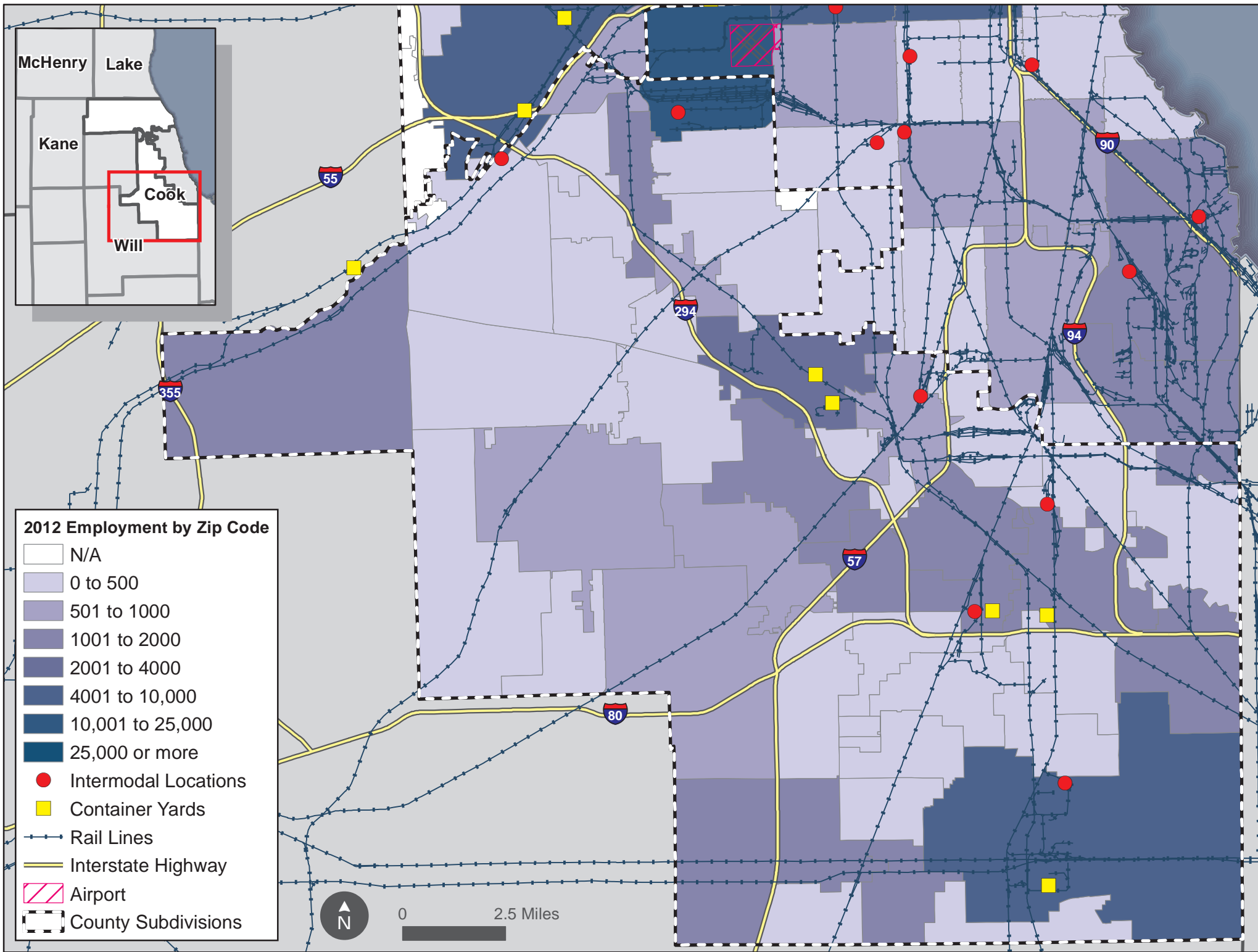
Advanced Manufacturing

While employment in manufacturing has declined sharply, productivity has increased. Technology and greater automation has helped manufacturers be more competitive, increasing their output with fewer resources. Modern manufacturing jobs require highly skilled workers and pay high wages.



Transportation, warehousing, and wholesale trade

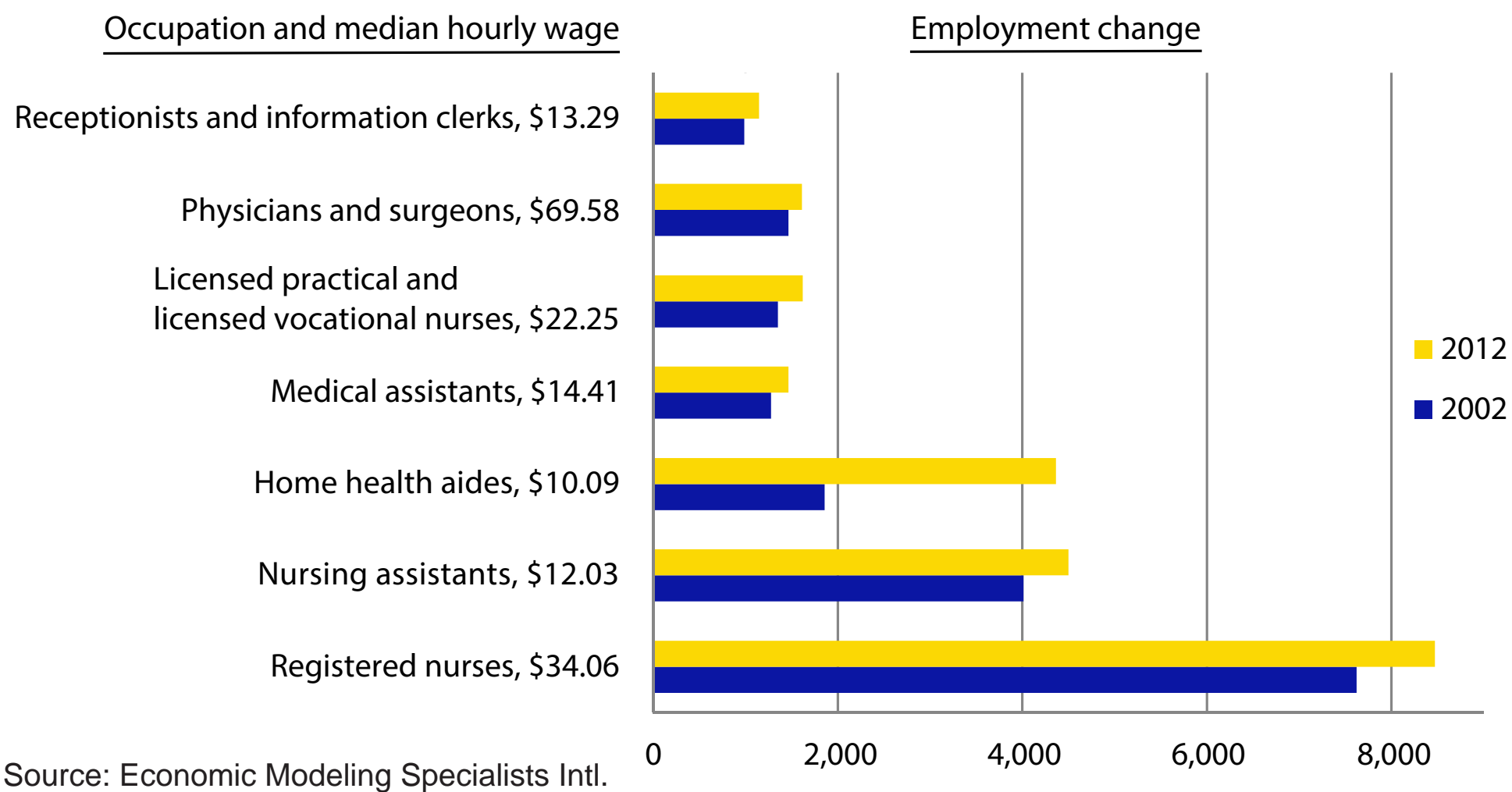
Freight related companies employ nearly 30,000 people in the south suburbs and pay an average annual wage of \$56,000.



Healthcare

The area's hospitals are among the largest employers in the sub-region, and demand for registered nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, and medical assistants have grown over the last decade, although not as fast as the nation.

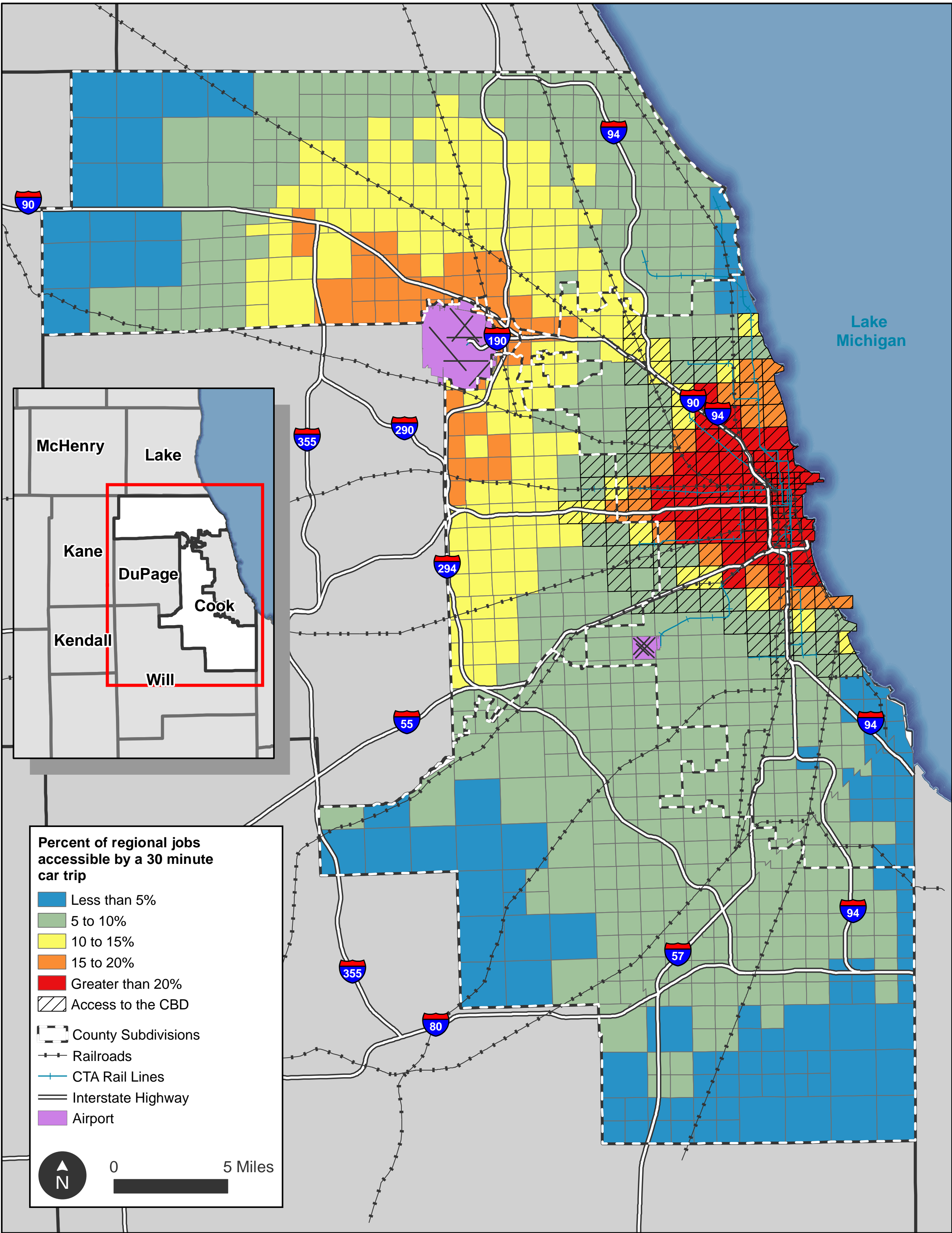
Healthcare occupations in south Cook County



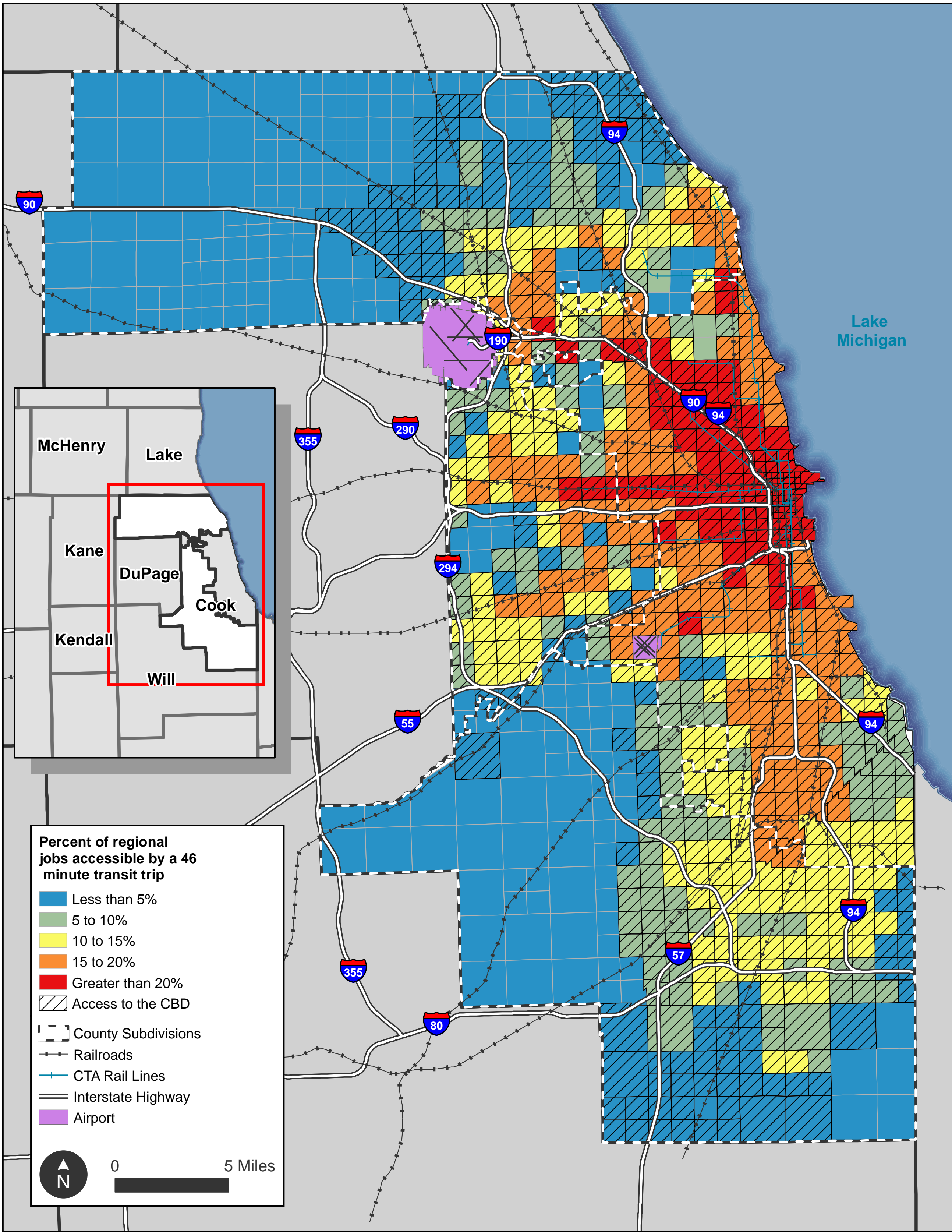
Job access:

To what extent should job access guide Cook County programming?

Transportation and affordability are linked. Some locations are inherently more or less costly by virtue of their location. If a housing unit is farther away from jobs or retail, the individual who lives there will need to spend more time and money travelling, leaving less money for housing and other expenses. The following maps show what percent of the region’s jobs are accessible at various locations in Cook County. **Should job access guide programing in Cook County? If so, what types of projects or programing would best improve access, including public infrastructure improvements?**



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

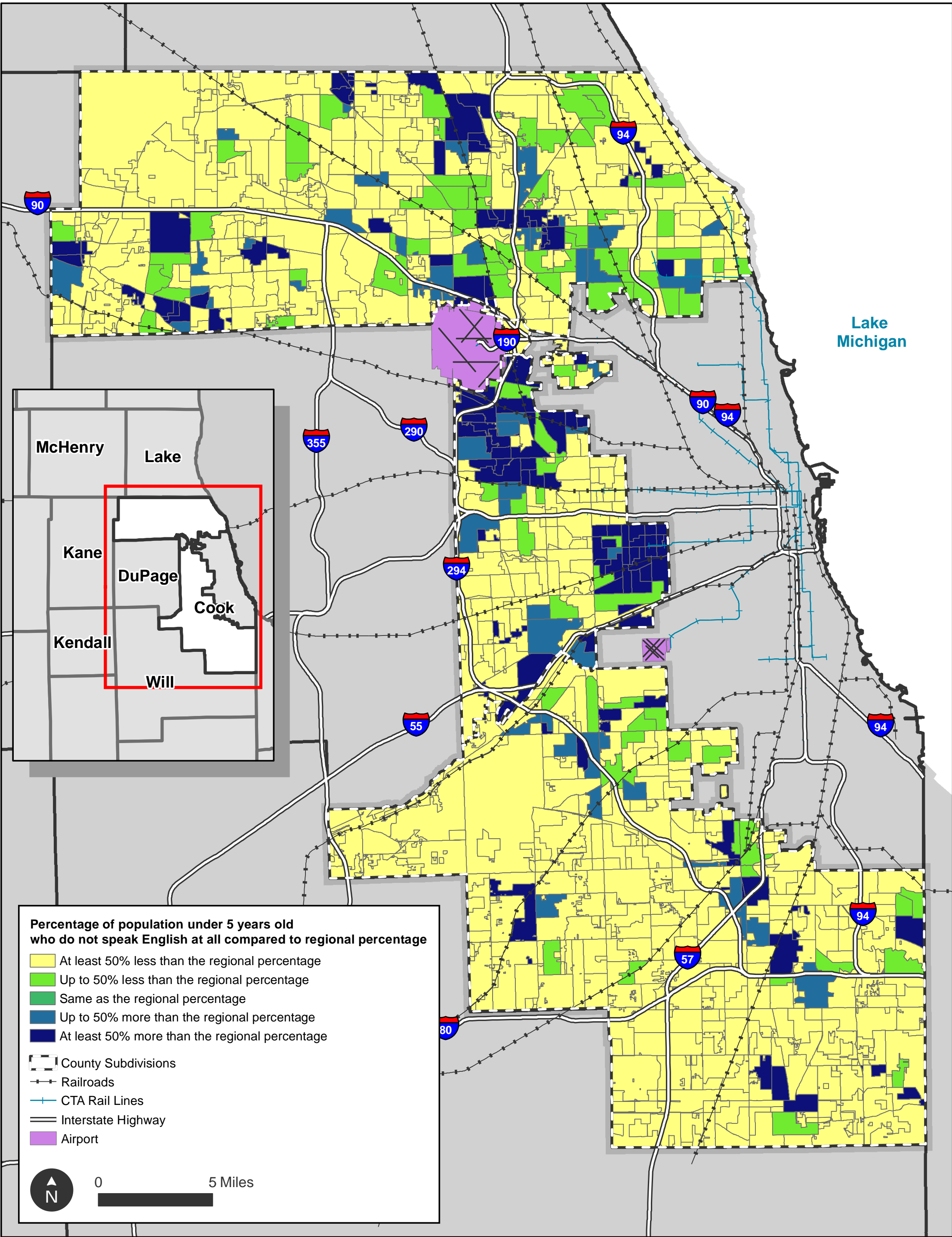


Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Health and human services:

Language services

Many parts of Cook County are a destination for immigrants, some of whom do not speak English. In the Chicago region, almost 2% of people over 5 years old do not speak English, higher than the 1.5% of suburban Cook County residents. The maps below show what areas of suburban Cook County contain far higher and lower percentages of non-English speaking people over 5 years old than the region. **How should Cook County provide services to this population?**



Health care

The Cook County Department of Public Health found during its last strategic planning process that cardiovascular disease is responsible for 33% of all deaths in suburban Cook County. Because a majority of these deaths are preventable, the department recommended that public services help people understand and prevent the disease to reduce this figure. Improvements could focus not only on education or prevention but also on guiding development to locations that encourage more physical activity. **Should the County fund such efforts?**



Infrastructure and public health

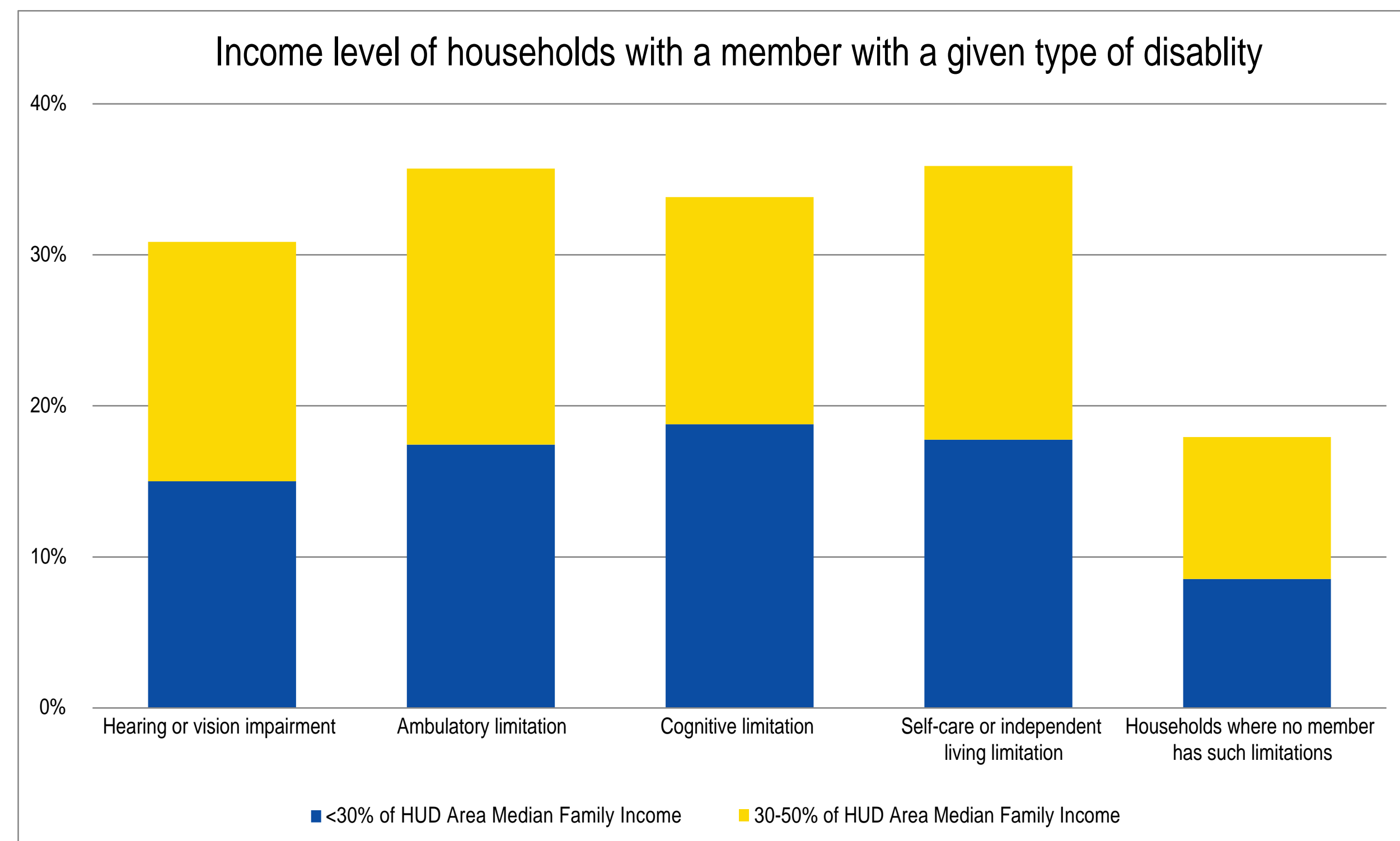
The County can fund many different types of infrastructure, including streets and sidewalks. 60% of respondents to a 2010 Cook County Department of Public Health survey said that safe-neighborhoods were important to making a community a healthy place to live. **Should the County focus on funding public infrastructure that helps foster safe and healthy neighborhoods?**

Senior Citizens

In 2010, 37% of southern Cook County households earning less than \$50,000 per year are seniors. CMAP projects that between 2010 and 2040, the number of households in southern Cook County earning less than \$50,000 per year may grow by more than 70,000. Approximately 40% of the projected growth will be seniors. **How should we serve the growing number of seniors in southern Cook County?**

Disabled Persons

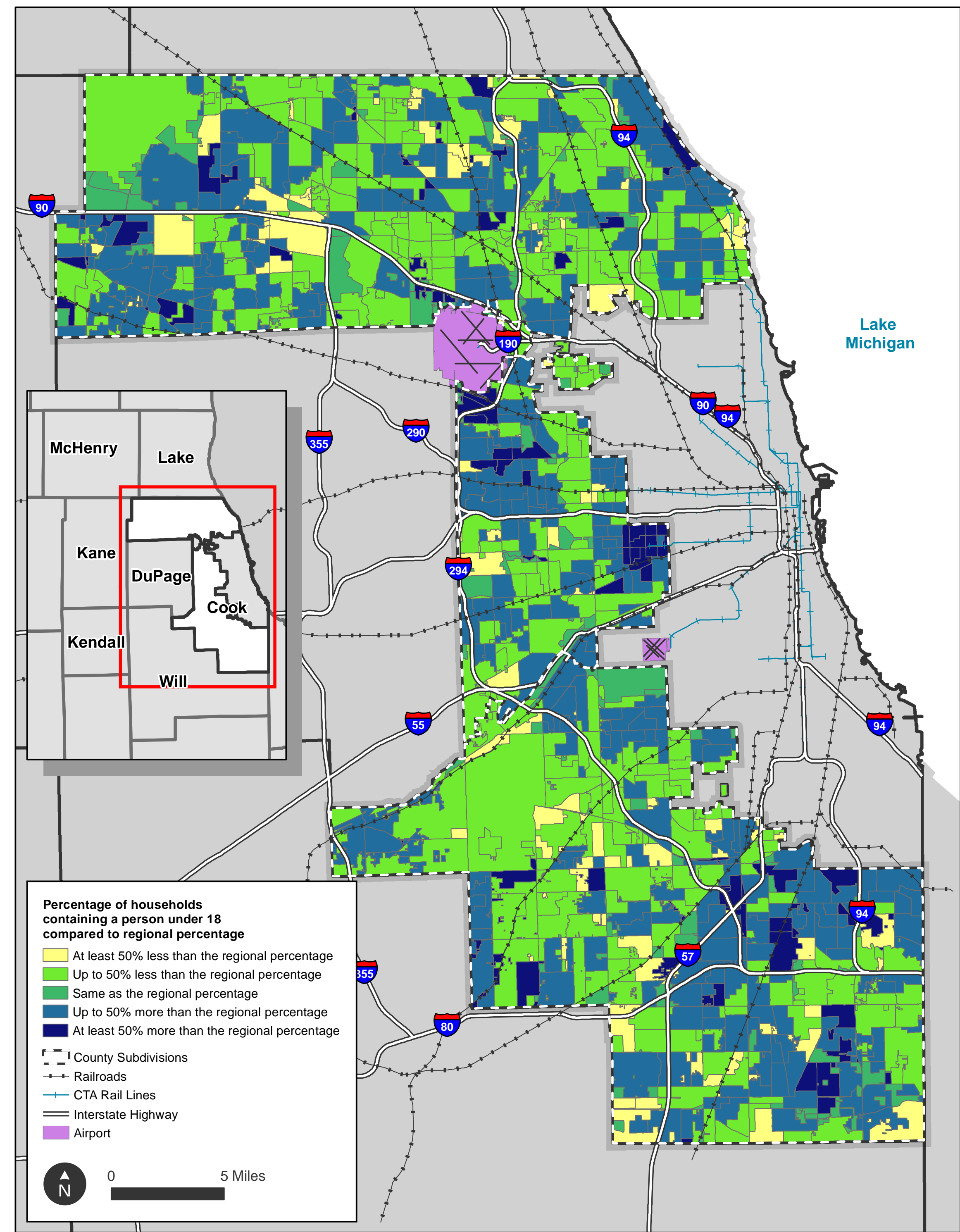
The US Census indicates that 20% of suburban Cook County households include a member with a disability. These households are disproportionately likely to be low- or moderate-income. As the population grows and ages over the next 30 years, the number of households with a disabled member will likely also grow. **How should we serve residents with disabilities and their families?**



Source: Comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy 2008-10.

Youth

The US Census indicates that 35% of households in suburban Cook County and the Chicago region contain a person younger than 18 years old. The maps below show what areas of suburban Cook County contain higher and lower percentages of youth. **Do the children in your area need more services? How should the County focus on providing for facilities to meet the needs of young people?**

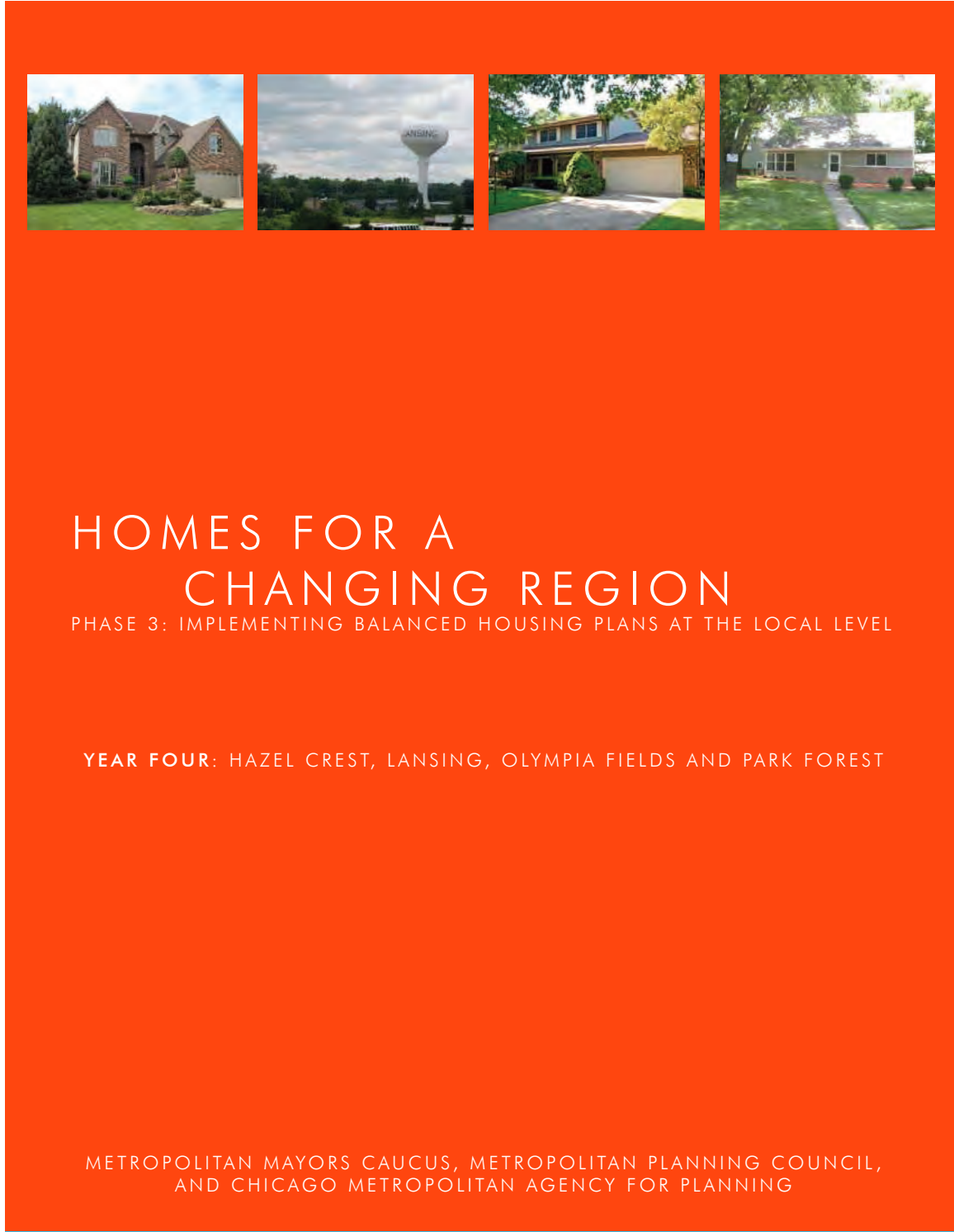


Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Capacity building and coordination:

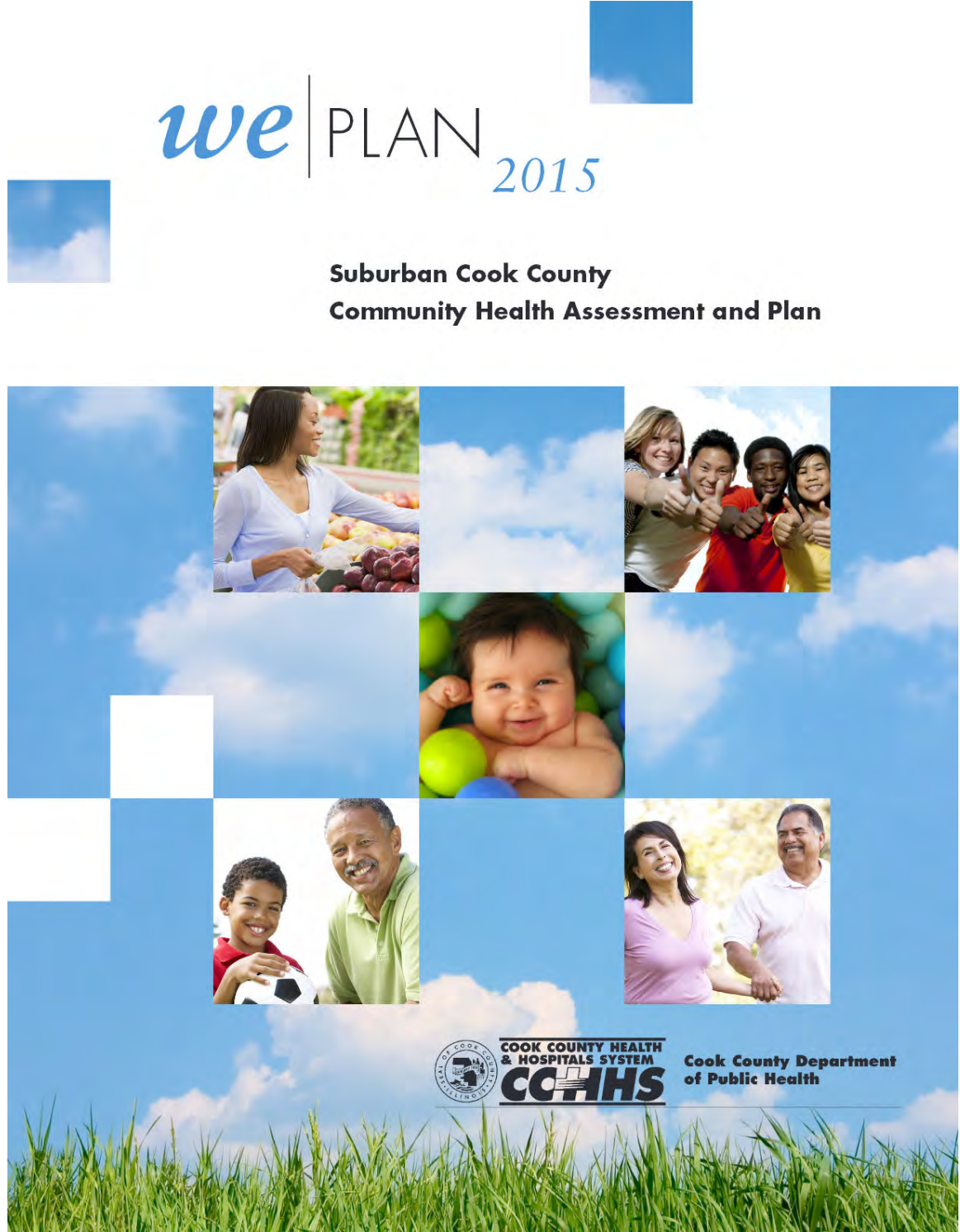
Housing collaboratives

Groups of municipalities in southern, western, and northern Cook County have been working together in recent years on local housing issues. By developing ways to address issues collaboratively, the groups have been able to apply for and receive competitive funding to help address foreclosures, encourage development around transit assets, and consider how best to meet the needs of seniors. **Should we support these and similar efforts by targeting funding to sustain and expand organizational capacity?**



Health care

The Cook County Department of Public Health found during its last strategic planning process (WePlan 2015) that the current public health system struggles with a lack of infrastructure, education, and evaluation around possible projects and programs. Encouraging coordination among service providers can help funders determine how well programs are addressing identified needs. **Should the County support better coordination and capacity building among public health providers?**



Public services

The County currently funds a wide range of public service agencies, many of which have taken steps to improve efficiency. For example, The Hub in southern Cook County- through its lead agencies Ford Heights Community Service Organization, South Suburban PADS, Together We Cope, and Respond Now- is working to coordinate referrals and services. As another example, The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (Alliance) is a non-profit organization responsible for planning and coordinating homeless services and housing options for suburban Cook County. The Alliance has focused on ways to expand the capacity of member organizations, whether through better metrics on the impacts of funded programs or developing computer systems to provide services, like referrals, more efficiently. **Should we support the efforts of public service providers to operate more efficiently?**

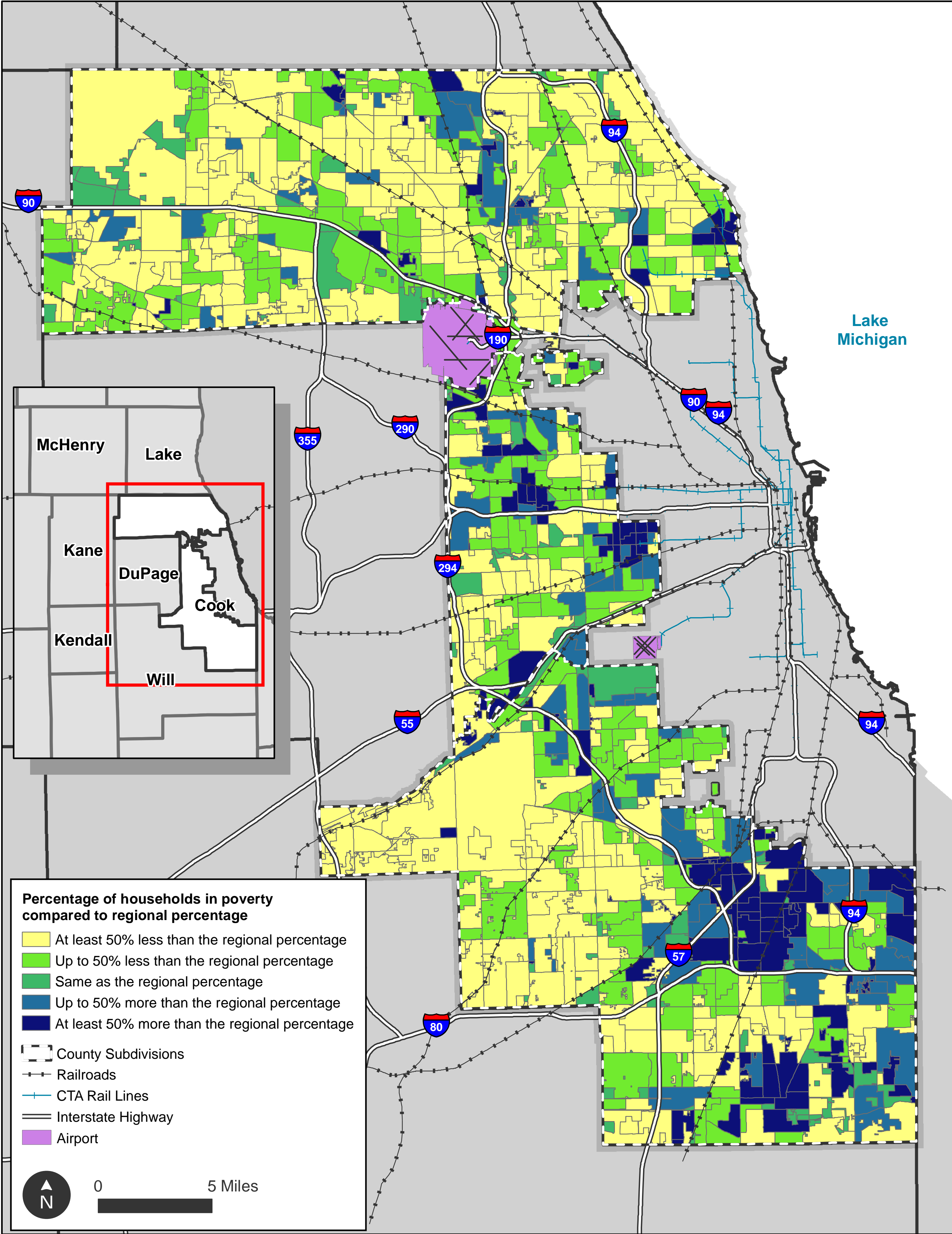
Poverty and homelessness:

Poverty


The US Census indicates that a lower percentage of suburban Cook County households earned less than the federal poverty level (\$22,050 for a family of 4) in 2010 than in the region (8.5% vs. 11.1%). Still, areas of concentrated poverty exist throughout suburban Cook County, as shown on the following map. As detailed in *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America* by Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube, these concentrations reflect the new reality of poverty in the US, where more poor residents live in suburban areas than in central cities. **How should we address areas of concentrated poverty?**

Homelessness

In 2013, 2,372 individuals and 951 persons in families were estimated to be homeless. While these individuals and families are all struggling with homelessness, the characteristics that may have led to the homelessness vary greatly, ranging from those struggling with disability, substance use, or serious mental illness to youth aging out of facilities targeted to their needs or even individuals whose temporary living situation with a friend falls through. **How do you encounter homelessness in your community? Are there particular populations that seem to be in the greatest need? How should we address homelessness in southern Cook County?**




Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development




Affordable housing assistance

Cook County households can be helped not only by building and maintaining housing units, but also by providing direct assistance to renters (e.g. subsidies for security deposits or rent) or owners (downpayment and closing cost assistance, housing counseling, etc.).



Affordable housing development

As Cook County continues to grow and change, additional housing options may be necessary to accommodate new residents and changing desires. The County should focus on efforts that add to our affordable housing stock for renters and/or owners.



Affordable housing preservation

The County should maintain and support existing housing in Cook County through rehabilitation and/or stricter enforcement of building maintenance codes. Rehabilitation can focus on particular topics such as energy efficiency, lead paint remediation, and accessibility.

Public services and homeless prevention:

What types of projects/programs should we fund to address concentrated poverty or special needs households?



Public services

Residents can benefit from public and social services, including education, health, recreation, or financial programs. The County should address local issues by supporting new and expanding existing public services.



Homeless prevention/ intervention

The County's homeless population and those at-risk of homelessness should be assisted through outreach, emergency shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing placement, services, and subsidies to provide needed supports and housing.

Economic and workforce development:

What types of projects/programs should we fund to improve job access, develop a more skilled workforce, or align efforts with key industrial sectors?



Planning for Progress



Business development

Startup and development loans; site preparation; demolition, new construction, or rehabilitation of business sites and facilities. Supporting the attraction, retention, or creation of living wage-jobs for residents within strong industry clusters can increase economic opportunity in Cook County.



Workforce development

A strong workforce is an important asset to Cook County. We should support workforce development initiatives, including education, job training, and/or job placement programs integrated with existing and potential employment opportunities and industry clusters.

Facilities and infrastructure:

What types of projects/programs should we fund to expand the availability of and improve access to amenities that enhance the quality of life and improve public health?



Public facilities

Schools, libraries, parks, playgrounds, senior centers, community centers, etc. Supporting the development or rehabilitation of public facilities can create or revive shared public spaces and strengthen neighborhoods.



Infrastructure

Streets, sewers, sidewalks. Public infrastructure developments or improvements can help ensure sufficient access and quality, as well as promoting and sustaining related economic or housing development.

Capacity building and other:

What types of projects/programs should we fund to improve local capacity or otherwise address local needs?



Planning and capacity building

Many organizations (non-profits, municipalities, townships, etc.) throughout the County wrestle with how best to meet the needs of residents and businesses. The County could support these organizations as they explore how best to tackle local, sub-regional, and County-wide issues, including opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Other

Are there issues in your community that we should consider but didn't cover? Use the space below to tell us about that issue and any ideas you have on how it should be addressed by the County.