



**CARSEY INSTITUTE**  
UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

## THE CARSEY RURAL FORUM

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### From the Director

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Spring 2006



Dear Friend,

The Carsey Institute is pleased to send you the first installment of our Carsey Rural Forum.

This quarterly newsletter will help us keep you informed about the ongoing rural work of the Carsey Institute. Part of the University of New Hampshire, the Carsey Institute is a policy research center working to develop fresh thinking about the complex challenges confronting the rural communities and small cities of America. Many of these communities are grappling with a range of critical issues that demand new policy responses. We play an important role in that effort by bringing together leading scholars in economics, demography, public health, sociology and other fields to build knowledge grounded in practice. This knowledge will help generate thoughtful responses to the challenges facing these rural communities.

In this issue, you will read about new reports and policy briefs on demographic trends in rural America and the challenges facing low-skill rural workers, and we describe *Avoiding the Money Trap*, a new video resource from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. There also is a list of upcoming Carsey events and a summary of policy briefs we will be releasing in the next few months.

One of our goals for this newsletter is to provide you with helpful resources. Please feel free to download our work and share it with others. We also welcome your feedback; send your comments or questions to [carsey.institute@unh.edu](mailto:carsey.institute@unh.edu)

In closing, I look forward to continuing the important work of our team, and I hope you will look to the Carsey Institute as a valued source of information about the issues facing rural and small town America.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia 'Mil' Duncan

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### In this Issue

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- [\*\*New Report on \*Demographic Trends in Rural and Small Town America\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Policy Brief : \*Low-Skill Workers in Rural America Face Permanent Job Loss\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Mil Duncan Participates in Panel on Money Traps in Rural America\*\*](#)
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## News from the Carsey Institute

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### **New Report on *Demographic Trends in Rural and Small Town America***

New realities are facing rural America, according to a new report from the Carsey Institute. The demographic makeup of rural America is changing as some places grow with the migration of retirees and baby boomers into amenity-rich areas, while other places lose young people and grow older. Racial and ethnic diversity, meanwhile, continue to increase. The report, written by Kenneth Johnson, sociology professor and demographer at Loyola University-Chicago, is the first in a series of reports on rural America.

[Download the report](#)

[Read the AP story](#)



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### **Policy Brief: *Low-Skill Workers in Rural America Face Permanent Job Loss***



A new policy brief from the Carsey Institute finds that global competition displaced 1.5 million workers from jobs in rural America between 1997 and 2003. In response to the problem, the brief recommends better education and training, as well as innovative, community-based economic development approaches to keep small towns and rural areas economically viable. The report, written by professor of economic geography at Penn State University and visiting Carsey scholar, Amy Glasmeier, and associate director of the Carsey Institute, Priscilla Salant, is the second in a series of policy briefs on rural America.

[Download the report](#)

[Read the press coverage](#)

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### **Mil Duncan Participates in Panel on Money Traps in Rural America**

Mil Duncan provided an overview of issues affecting low-income rural families at a policy forum in Washington, DC, hosted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The forum included the premiere of the documentary *Avoiding the Money Trap*. The documentary examines money traps such as payday loans, high-interest car loans, tax refund anticipation loans, and other predatory financial practices that affect rural America. Jean Ann Fox from the Consumer Federation of America, Margy Waller from the Center for Community Change and Alan Berube from the Brookings Institution also participated in the panel discussion.



To order a copy of *Avoiding the Money Trap* please [download and fill out this order form](#).

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## Carsey in the News

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- New Hampshire Public Radio interviewed Mil Duncan about the Demographics Report [>>LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW](#)
- Mil Duncan was interviewed on why poverty persists in Appalachia and rural America as part of a three-part PBS Frontline special. The documentary series "Country Boys" examines the life of two boys growing up in rural America. Her interview is part of the PBS online readings to support the film series. [>>READ MIL'S INTERVIEW](#)
- The Economist reflected on poverty in rural America and Africa. [>>READ THE STORY](#)

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## Coming Soon

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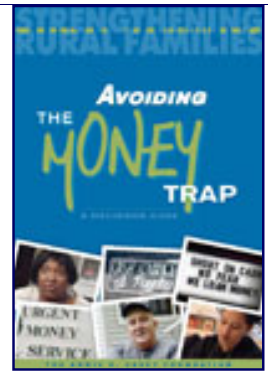
### Spring Brown Bag Series

The Carsey Institute hosts a monthly seminar series on the campus of the University of New Hampshire. The next seminar, *Empowering Low-Income and Disenfranchised Groups through Community Economic Development for Economic Gain and Social Progress*, features speakers Ross Gittell, James R. Carter Professor of Management and Phillip Thompson, Associate Professor, Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The event will take place on Wednesday, May 3 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Elliot Alumni Center, room 1925. For more information, please call the Carsey Institute at 603-862-4650.

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**Carsey Institute to Co-Host a Special Screening and Discussion on *Avoiding the Money Trap* at the Tuck Library in Concord, NH**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation documentary, *Avoiding the Money Trap*, features two successful New Hampshire programs that are working to help build family economic success. A screening and discussion of *Avoiding the Money Trap* will be held at the Tuck Library on May 10th from 4:00 - 5:00 p. m. If you will be in the Concord area and would like to attend, please RSVP to [susan@avoidingthemoneytrap.com](mailto:susan@avoidingthemoneytrap.com)



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## Upcoming Briefs and Reports:

### **Predatory Lending Policy Brief Coming in Late Spring**

Carsey is working with two nonprofit organizations - the Housing Assistance Council and Coastal Enterprises of Maine - to document mortgage-related predatory lending practices in rural America. The groups are developing a policy brief that will include an analysis of the most recent Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for rural America, as well as a more in-depth case study of predatory lending and policy options in Maine.

### **Report on Substance Abuse in Rural America**

Karen Van Gundy, assistant professor of sociology at University of New Hampshire, examines data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health on alcohol and substance abuse and dependence in rural America.

### **Policy Brief on Child Care for Working Mothers in Rural America**

Kristin Smith, family demographer at the Carsey Institute, looks at the child care arrangements of rural working mothers. Women in rural areas may have less choice and less money for child care and relatives often become the caregivers.

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