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Retiree-Attraction Policies: Challenges for Local Governance in Rural Regions

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Retiree-attraction policies are particularly promising economic development strategies for many nonmetropolitan and exurban communities, yet scant attention has been given to the implications of such policies for local governance. Although these policies can bring dollars with a high multiplier effect to communities while imposing low demands on some public services, they are not without costs. After exploring the positive and negative aspects of retiree-attraction policies, this article poses questions such policies should raise for locally elected officials, public administrators, and other stakeholders concerning the sustainability of such policies and their community's readiness to undertake this kind of economic development.

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