

The proposal by Robert Moore, of the OEO office in Atlanta, provides for a total budget of \$40,962 in Federal funds for one center in Tullahoma, one in Manchester and six in the rural areas of Coffee County.

Coffee County, which participated in the "Headstart" program last summer, and Manchester have filed separate applications for programs this year. Coffee County has asked \$32,724 in Federal funds and Manchester has asked \$9,400.

However, James G. Jarrell, superintendent of Coffee County schools, and Clyde Evans, superintendent of Manchester schools, said they would not object to a consolidated program if details can be worked out.

WON'T PARTICIPATE

Dr. Ralph Evans, superintendent of Tullahoma schools, said the Tullahoma School Board considered the program when it was started last year and decided against participation. He indicated that the board's position has not changed, and that Tullahoma will not participate this year.

Dr. Evans said the Tullahoma School Board decided against participation last year because a preliminary application of eligibility rules indicated a very small number of children would be involved.

He said he informed Mr. Moore that the Tullahoma School Board had not expressed an interest in the kindergarten program.

"We feel a responsibility to examine all these programs as they are presented and see which would be of benefit to us," Dr. Evans said. "We participate in many Federal programs, but it was not felt that 'Headstart' would be of great benefit at this time. We feel we have an obligation as citizens to turn down any program unless we can wisely spend the dollars—even though they are Federal dollars."

He said Tullahoma has a few children eligible to attend the kindergarten, and that these could attend centers at Jones Elementary School or Hickerson Station School.

ESTIMATE "TOO HIGH"

Dr. Evans said an OEO estimate that 60 children in Tullahoma would be eligible is "entirely too high." He pointed out that the largest first-grade class is at Bel-Aire School, where only eight would have been eligible for "Headstart" classes.

Coffee County's application is based on an estimated enrollment of 192 children, and Manchester's is based on about 50 children.

In a telephone conversation recently with the three superintendents, Mr. Moore pointed out that a jointly-administered program would be more economical because it would eliminate duplication in administration.

Mr. Moore's proposal calls for one director, eight head teachers, eight teachers, 20 teachers' aides, eight cooks, one dietician, one bookkeeper, one transportation supervisor and one maintenance supervisor.

TO PROVIDE BUILDINGS

The school systems' contributions to the program would be to provide buildings for the centers.

Supt. Clyde Evans and Supt. Jarrell said they had no objections to a combined program if the details could be worked out.

"I don't know whether it would be possible," the Manchester city superintendent said. "If some school system with transportation ability and centers wanted to take it over, it might do well. We have no transportation potential and couldn't do it."

Supt. Jarrell noted the time involved in the job of administering the program in the county system last year and felt that each system should be free to make its own determination.

"I feel this ought to be left up to the individual school system whether it wanted to participate or combine," he said. "I know I can only speak for my system. It might be all right to combine the programs if the problems could be worked out through the board of education. I certainly wouldn't want to administer the city's program, but we might let them run ours."

Both superintendents said they did not know what might come of the proposal to combine the programs but were awaiting word on their fund applications.