

poor population tends to decline when the Nation is in a period of economic expansion such as we have experienced since 1961.

Even though continued prosperity will undoubtedly further reduce the numbers of those classed as poor, there are millions who will continue to be bypassed even in an ever expanded economy. Among these millions are the school dropouts who have not acquired marketable skills, middle-aged workers whose unskilled jobs have been taken by automation and others who have surrendered to despair. While these millions could be "bought" out of poverty through the use of transfer payments of some \$11 billion this would not provide a lasting solution to the problem.

The Economic Opportunity Act was designed to provide these hard core poor with opportunities for training and assistance to prepare them for productive employment and entrance into the mainstream of American life. For example, the Job Corps program provides education, vocational training, and useful work experience in urban and rural residential centers for young men and women, aged 16 to 21. The Neighborhood Youth Corps provides work experience for young men and women. By offering part-time employment, the program permits youths to stay in school, encourages dropouts to return to school and serves as a bridge to regular employment for others. The community action program encourages urban and rural communities to mobilize their resources to eliminate poverty or the causes of poverty through the development of employment opportunities and the improvement of conditions under which people live, learn, and work. In addition to serving as catalysts for action, local community action agencies help poor people obtain the benefits of other Federal programs, State programs, and local programs for which they are eligible. In this way, the full weight of existing programs is brought to bear against the problems of poverty.

Table 2 provides a summary of participants and beneficiaries of programs being carried out under the Economic Opportunity Act.

TABLE 2.—*Participants and beneficiaries in Economic Opportunity Act programs, fiscal years 1965-67*

Description	1965 actual	1966 estimate	1967 estimate
Community action programs:			
Communities with action grants.....	220	700	900
Communities with planning grants.....	315	300	300
Children in Headstart projects:			
Summer.....	560,000	500,000	500,000
Full year.....	20,000	100,000	210,000
Adults employed by community action agencies.....	82,000	125,000	180,000
Children in remedial tutorial projects.....	70,000	293,000	307,000
Youths in Job Corps (end of year).....	10,241	30,000	45,000
Youths in Neighborhood Youth Corps:			
In-school academic year projects.....	102,000	100,000	125,000
Summer projects.....	144,000	165,000	165,000
Out of school.....	62,000	60,000	64,000
Adults in work experience projects.....	88,700	109,000	105,000
Enrollees in adult literacy programs.....	38,000	75,000	75,000
Number of loans to low-income rural families:			
Individual families.....	11,000	15,500	15,500
Cooperatives.....	82	350	400
VISTA volunteers (end of year).....	1,100	3,500	4,500