

Project to Strengthen the Visual Perception of Deaf Children, New Mexico State University. This project is developing a multisensory body of materials for preschool deaf children to help them overcome perceptual deficiencies.

Demonstration Project for the Training of the Mentally Retarded Deaf. The Catholic University of America. The purpose of this project is to develop an instructional program heavily reinforced with educational media for instruction of the educable mentally retarded deaf.

The research and demonstration activities administered by the Office, primarily supported under Title III of P.L. 88-164, have expanded from a Fiscal Year 1964 budget of \$1,000,000 to a Fiscal Year 1966 budget of \$6,000,000 and a Fiscal Year 1967 appropriation of \$8,100,000. The Research Division is supporting a diversity of programs of basic research throughout the country. This Division also administers a program of demonstration grants designed to accelerate the acceptance and actual utilization of new ideas into educational practice. (Appendix D-1 and D-2).

One of the most recent developments initiated by the Research Division which promises to be of inestimable benefit to the education of the handicapped community is the Instructional Materials Center program. This program was initiated as a means of encouraging the development and use of improved educational materials in the education of handicapped children. Ten centers have been established to provide national coverage. All of these centers are tied into a communication network (which includes an ERIC clearinghouse for handicapped children) to minimize overlapping effort and to insure that any teacher in the country has access to materials located anywhere in the country. The Instructional Materials Centers will identify existing materials, conduct research and evaluate these materials, and alert teachers to the availability and effective use of such materials.

The Instructional Materials Centers are located at the following sites:

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
Colorado State College, Greeley, Colorado
University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
University of Texas, Austin, Texas
American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky
University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
State Educational Agency, Springfield, Illinois

Four additional centers have been approved but final negotiations have not been completed.

The establishment of 14 centers in conjunction with the ERIC clearinghouse for the handicapped completes the initial stage of this operation. Next, the Centers will develop satellites or sub-centers to serve teachers within the regions. Funding for the sub-centers will probably be made available under Titles III and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The total cost of the Network will be approximately \$1,500,000 for this fiscal year.

The Research Division is currently considering the site for a Research and Demonstration Center, authorized under P.L. 89-105. This center will help meet the crucial need for adequate facilities in which to conduct research into the education of handicapped children.

The Office of Education has supported a greatly expanded training program for the preparation of personnel in the area of education of handicapped children. Since the initial legislative provision in 1958, over 32,000 fellowships and training grants have been awarded in all areas of education for the handicapped. Various training programs in all areas of handicapping conditions are currently being funded by an appropriation of \$24,500,000. I am sure that you will be encouraged, as I was, to learn the results of a pilot study survey conducted by the Division of Training Programs to determine the current employment status of 1965-66 academic year recipients of awards made under federally funded training programs.

The survey obtained information on the current employment status of 1,857 award recipients (greater than three-fourths of the total number of academic year 1965-66 award recipients) from among 114 randomly selected, participating colleges and universities. (Appendix E-1, E-2, E-3).