

coordinating, evaluating, and administering a program, to be known as a community action program. A community action program is a community based and operated program—

“(1) which includes or is designed to include a sufficient number of projects or components to provide, in sum, a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem;

“(2) which has been developed, and which organizes and combines its component projects and activities, in a manner appropriate to carry out all the purposes of this title; and

“(3) which conforms to such other supplementary criteria as the Director may prescribe consistent with the provisions of this title.

“(b) Components of a community action program may be administered by the community action agency, where consistent with sound and efficient management and applicable law, or by other agencies. They may be projects eligible for assistance under this title, or projects assisted from other public or private sources; and they may be either specially designed to meet local needs, or designed pursuant to the eligibility standards of a State or Federal program providing assistance to a particular kind of activity which will help in meeting those needs.

“(c) The community in which a community action agency is established to carry on a community action program may be a city, county, multicounty, multicounty, or other governmental unit, an Indian reservation, or a neighborhood or other area (whether or not its boundaries correspond with those of any political subdivision); but it must in any event provide the organizational base and process the commonality of interest needed for an efficient and effective program conforming to the requirements of this section.

“STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

“Sec. 211. (a) Each community action agency shall be established and constructed so as to assure broad, continuing, and effective community participation in all phases of the community action program for which it is responsible, and to assure that the program as developed and implemented is fully responsive to community needs and conditions. Each such agency shall have, for this purpose, a governing board organized to provide for membership of the chief elected official or officials of the community and other appropriate public officials, or their representatives, of officials or representatives of private groups and agencies engaged in providing assistance to the poor, and of appropriate representatives of business, labor, religious, or other major groups and interests in the community. At least one-third of the membership of the board shall be persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representative of the poor in the community. All members of the governing board selected to represent specific geographic areas within a community must reside in the areas they represent. Each community action agency shall establish procedures by which community agencies and representative groups of the poor, including but not limited to minority groups, the elderly and (where applicable) rural residents, which feel themselves inadequately represented may petition for the representation they consider appropriate.

“(b) The powers of every community action agency governing board shall include the power to appoint persons to senior staff positions, to determine major personnel, fiscal, and program policies, to approve overall program plans and priorities, and to assure compliance with conditions of and approve proposals for financial assistance under this title.

“SPECIFIC POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

“Sec. 212. (a) In order to carry out its overall responsibility for planning, coordinating, evaluating, and administering a community action program, a community action agency must have authority under its charter or applicable law to receive and administer funds under this title, funds and contributions from private or local public sources which may be used in support of a community action program, and funds under any Federal or State assistance program pursuant to which a public or private nonprofit agency (as the case may be) organized in accordance with this part could act as grantee, contractor, or spon-