

As soon as the residents of the area have been trained and have had experience they are in increasing demand for other employment in social service fields.

It has been through the neighborhood center concept that we have developed the career areas of teachers aids, health aids, aids to nursing associations, as well as instructors and tutors in a variety of services which have heretofore been neglected and not utilized when this reservoir of potential manpower and service is resident within the target areas.

In summary, neighborhood centers and the system of which it is the core, have become the focal point for Community Action, community involvement and community self-help. The center becomes the people's program. It belongs to the people of the community and we are gathering increasing evidence of the extensive use to which they are using it to help them with their own problems.

In statistical terms, in the first year of our operation, we funded some \$77 million in neighborhood center programs in response to community demand. This year, this sum, within the limitations and availability of the local initiative funds that were available, we are funding \$110 million in neighborhood centers with a total of 700 of which 630 of them are in urban areas and 70 of them in rural communities.

Some of the demands which we have included in the presentation here indicate that the level of demands for neighborhood centers, with heavy emphasis in the rural areas, will be some \$160 million for this coming fiscal year given the requested appropriation and the flexibility of local initiative funding.

We believe, as we have indicated, that this becomes the heart of Community Action because within it, as we have already indicated, legal services are frequently housed, certain components of health services (as distinguished from the comprehensive health program which usually requires its own physical facility).

This, Mr. Chairman, is a further illustration of the comprehensiveness of Community Action Programs. While we have encouraged and responded to the development of the neighborhood center, it may be of interest to the committee to learn that the variety of programs meeting the individual needs of communities, have been developed and, up to the present time in our whole funding process to Community Action agencies, we have expended from appropriations made available to us, \$1,200,000 since the beginning of our agency.

The number of components of programs in the various categories of services total over 15,000 different types or different components of programs. Within many of these communities these component programs become the matrix on which the neighborhood center has developed as the system for delivering these services to the communities in which they are established.

So, without suggesting that any funds be earmarked precisely for it, we wanted the committee to know that this has become and is emerging as a very essential element of the community action program in responding to local community assessment, identification of the method by which they will deliver these programs to the people who need them.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gibbons, do you have any questions on this phase of community action?