

1054 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Sixty-five small businessmen have been interviewed and have responded affirmatively to the organization of, and their participation in, the credit union.

Approximately 25,000 persons have been involved in some phase of the consumer program, either by interview, personal contact, assistance, referral, or participation in a consumer activity.

The present CABS Board of Directors are all residents of long standing. All but one are poor, all have been well-trained in consumer affairs. They have been the key leaders in organizing the Block Councils, covering the entire target area.

One of the first acts by the present CABS Inc. Board (and a special condition of this grant) will be the holding of elections to form a new and permanent board, representative of the entire area to be served. They plan to have the Block Council, now numbering 64, to elect one representative for every 2 blocks. This will fill out the Board to a total of 32. Elections will be in conformity with OEO guidelines. Present interim members may also stand for election since they are residents of the same areas. However, present membership will not continue unless ratified by elections as described above.

The organization work thus far done, the spirit and support of the community evident to all who have studied this community, is high recommendation for their will and competence to carry out this program which they have designed.

VII. RESULTS EXPECTED

The achievable goals anticipated by the end of the first year of this project are—

- (1) An indigenously operated neighborhood organization of low-income consumers and low-income merchants now capable of modifying the presently exploitative ghetto marketing system.

- (2) New and practical variation of the free enterprise system, e.g. a community-controlled low cost credit system and a series of cooperative associations designed to serve with the consumer and the independent merchant.

- (3) A credit union with a membership in excess of 10,000, assets of between \$200,000 and \$250,000, and an operating central charge system involving at least 64 merchants and representing 20 categories of service (grocery, furniture, hardware, appliances, funeral, insurance, etc.).

- (4) Active consumer programs, the effect of which will be seen in the increased shopping sophistication of the consumer, better run stores, and a wider range of economic alternatives for both.

- (5) Active liaison with all other consumer programs in the Greater New York Area.

- (6) An evaluation report documenting the number of persons materially assisted by this program, the type of assistance, and, if possible, financial benefits to both consumer and merchant.

VIII. EVALUATION PHASES

There are three planned approaches for evaluating this program.

- (a) Internal: constant records will be kept on a case by case basis. This will supply the sponsoring board (CABS Inc.) with material indicating change in thrust, techniques, or direction of the program.

- (b) OEO will arrange a third party evaluation team, drawn from independent sources to be contracted within 90 days of the onset of the program.

- (c) Periodic evaluations will be made by CUNA International staff in collaboration with the New York State Credit Union League. Such evaluation reports will be submitted to CAP/Community Services of OEO for review and consultation.

IX. POSSIBLE POLICY OR OTHER PROBLEMS

This demonstration is initially limited to area II of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. As it expands, particularly in the credit union operation, the problem of an expanded field of membership undoubtedly will require negotiation with the State League and the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions.

In addition, the overall programming contemplated for the Bedford-Stuyvesant area is presently not clear. The future role of Youth In Action (the CAA),