

1224 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

skills and potentials in order to aid him in eventually finding his place as a contributor to the economy. This summer program demonstrated it was an effective instrument in providing underprivileged youth with the opportunity to earn money through significant work experience.

About one out of ten of the 1.8 million 16 to 21 year-old Americans needs some kind of special work opportunity during school vacation in order that they gain sufficient financial assistance to aid them in returning to school. Many of these youth were the target of the Neighborhood Youth Corps Summer Program, Operation Champ, Upward Bound, the President's Youth Opportunity Campaign, and other similar programs conducted during the past summer. Of course, the needs of all these underprivileged youth could only be met in a limited way by the Neighborhood Youth Corps, but available evidence indicates significant impact was made by NYC in meeting these needs this past summer.

Briefly, during the summer of 1966 the Neighborhood Youth Corps achieved the following results:

- Enrolled over 150,000 disadvantaged students during summer vacation.

- Funded 906 summer projects in urban and rural communities throughout the country.

- Assisted an overwhelming majority of those enrolled in summer projects to return to school in the fall.

- Made significant contributions to local beautification projects.

- Helped to improve the maintenance and operation of school plants, parks and recreation facilities, Head Start projects, private non-profit agencies, governmental agencies and community organizations.

- Reduced juvenile delinquency and other socially disruptive acts on the part of teen-agers through well-defined programs of counseling, guidance and meaningful work-training.

- Helped to meet local needs by providing an additional 100,000 jobs in recreation and recreation-related activities through Operation Champ.

Despite the progress in 1966, there is still much that remains to be done. For example, there is an obvious need to test and explore new approaches for dealing with school dropouts in summer programs. More needs to be done to first, enroll each youth, and secondly, convince him to resume his education.

The accomplishments, the problems, and the challenges encompassing the summer program comprise the substance of the report that follows.

PART I.—BACKGROUND

The Neighborhood Youth Corps' Summer Program

Nine hundred and six summer projects were approved for in-school enrollees during the summer of 1966. The total authorized enrollment was 209,315. In actuality, enrollment as of July 31, 1966 stood at 192,650 (107,691 males and 84,959 females). The average duration for projects was ten weeks, although the variation extended to some running as little as six weeks and others for as long as 14 weeks. Costs of the approved summer projects were in excess of the expenditure for summer projects during the summer of 1965. All regions, states and localities were represented geographically, although project costs varied from state to state in excess of what normally would be expected. For instance, Kentucky, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. mounted programs in excess of what might be expected because of compelling reasons of limited local employment opportunities, volatile social and racial situations, high dropout rates, etc.

The purpose of the survey conducted during July-August by the Division of Program Review and Analysis was to make quick on-site evaluations of 51 projects in all regions, with special emphasis on the value of the summer program in helping youth to resume or continue their education. In addition, data was sought in relation to the following questions:

1. How severe were local poverty conditions?
2. Who was served by the program?
3. What impact did the program have on the local community; economically, socially and educationally?
4. What was the involvement of the local CAA with the NYC program?
5. Did the program increase the participants' employability or otherwise help him overcome the handicaps of poverty?
6. What would enrollees have done without the program?
7. How best could the NYC summer program operate next year?