

1316 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

the more highly educated in relation to the lower educated, and the older persons in relation to those who are younger.

These assumptions are borne out by the facts. As Table 3 shows, local labor market conditions, as measured by the area unemployment rate, range from a high of 31.4 percent in Owsley County, Kentucky, to a low of 2 percent in Ramsey County (St. Paul), Minnesota. The average age is highest in Eastern Kentucky standing at 39 years and lowest (for males) in St. Paul. Relatively, the Cleveland project has a high proportion of women and also a higher proportion of non-white participants. An image of the differences in average education level becomes clear by comparing enrollments in Adult Basic Education: 86 percent in Eastern Kentucky, 23 percent in Cleveland, and 17 percent in St. Paul.

These facts make the wide variation in the effectiveness of these three projects understandable. Nevertheless, some projects are still more "successful" than others, although they are faced with essentially the same labor market conditions and type of trainees. The central issue which emerges, therefore, is what can be done to raise the average level of Program performance?

Improving program effectiveness

There are three major areas in which the Department is actively engaged which promise real improvements in Program effectiveness. These are: the development of a system for rating the effectiveness of Title V projects; the enrichment of the present Program with greater resources for vocational training and instruction; and the launching of the Cooperative Area Manpower Planning System (CAMPS) for insuring that coordination and cooperation among the many programs and resources necessary for effective earning power programs is more reality than myth.

Title V rating system.—At the present time, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Office of Economic Opportunity are jointly developing a system for rating individual Title V projects which will take into account the many complex factors discussed above. Projects will first be classified according to labor market area, characteristic of trainees, and other relevant factors effecting the success of Title V projects but operating independently of Program management. All projects falling within a given classification will be ranked according to various measures of success such as proportion employed, proportion going on to advanced training, proportion receiving high school equivalency diplomas, etc. In effect, each project will be scored in relation to all others, and on the basis of the ranking which these scores yield, the factors which are associated with the operation of successful projects will be identified and incorporated in those which are less successful but face essentially the same set of outside conditions. This system will become part of the regular reporting system, and as such will permit a routine and rapid assessment of the status of individual projects once a month. The specifications for this system are now being developed in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and within the next month a sample of 25 projects will be selected for a trial run.

Enriching Title V.—The 1966 Amendments to Title V of the Economic Opportunity Act and Title II of the Manpower Development and Training Act provide the vehicle for closer coordination between the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Labor. The purpose of this legislation was to open up greater opportunities for training and vocational instruction for Title V trainees. This will be accomplished after July 1, 1967, by the joint evaluation and approval of the training and work experience aspects of each Title V project. The Amendments include provision for reimbursing the Department of Labor for testing, counselling services, work experience, on-the-job training, classroom instruction, job development, and, where necessary, relocation assistance. Responsibility for providing basic maintenance, pre-training services, personal counselling, health, family, and day care services, and other necessary supportive services will continue to rest with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

To implement the new Amendments, a task force composed of representatives from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Labor has been meeting regularly to develop policies and procedures for Program development, project review, project organization, staffing, and financing. The task force recently met with an advisory group consisting of State and local welfare officials and State and local officials representing the Department of Labor.

Area Manpower Planning System.—The Title V Program is participating in a