

1414 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

2. Head Start is a highly successful and significant child development program for disadvantaged young children and their families. There are now approximately 3,000,000 children ages 3-5 who come from poor families. Of these approximately 500,000 are presently enrolled in publicly supported programs (exclusive of Head Start). Many current public programs, particularly kindergartens, provide a considerably smaller range of services than Head Start.

3. There are, then, approximately 2,500,000 children not presently served by public programs. Since the program is not compulsory, it is likely that because of geographic dispersion, lack of public interest, or inability of specific children to participate no more than 80% could ever be brought into Head Start or equivalent programs. This suggests a potential of 2 million poor children. Since OEO permits 10% of enrolled children to come from families above the poverty line the maximum potential would be 2.2 million. Of this total:

470,000 would be 5 years old.

850,000 would be 4 years old.

880,000 would be 3 years old.

4. Supplemental funding for programs administered by the Office of Education (Title I—Elementary and Secondary Education Act), Bureau of Family Services (Social Security Act)—Children's Bureau, (Special Project Grants) and the Public Health Service, as well as the Office of Economic Opportunity could improve existing programs for 400,000 children in kindergarten.

5. With adequate funding it should be possible to expand Head Start at a maximum annual rate of 600,000-800,000 children. It is our judgment that it would be technically feasible to provide adequate personnel, training and facilities and to maintain reasonable quality standards while these resources are being developed. In reaching a 2,200,000 level for Full-Year children, construction and training would have to be carefully phased so that both facilities and staff are ready before children are actually enrolled. Lead times between approval of programs and their opening may range up to a year. Thus the absolute minimum time required for full enrollment would be four years.

6. To reach an operating level of 2,200,000 children it would be necessary to provide short-term training for 147,000 teachers and 290,000 non-professionals and 39,000 other professionals. While it is probably feasible to recruit the number of people, it would create serious competition with other important public programs, particularly in education. Facilities would need to be renovated for 350,000 children and constructed for 1,650,000.

7. The estimated costs of providing for this expansion are:

Annual operating costs:

\$0.9 billion for 800,000 children.

\$1.5 billion for 1,400,000 children.

\$2.4 billion for 2,200,000 children.

Training Costs:

\$64 million for 800,000 children.

\$112 million for 1,400,000 children.

\$182 million for 2,200,000 children.

Renovation, construction and equipment costs:

\$1.0 billion for 800,000 children.

\$2.0 billion for 1,400,000 children.

\$3.6 billion for 2,200,000 children.

Annual research, evaluation and administration costs:

\$76 million for 800,000 children.

\$100 million for 1,400,000 children.

\$136 million for 2,200,000 children.

Kindergarten Enrichment program costs: \$160 million for 400,000 children.

The actual costs to the Federal Government, and the appropriations required, would depend primarily on the timing of an expansion program and the methods selected for financing of construction. The latter could involve various combinations of Federal, State, local and private funds. If expansion were to occur at the maximum possible rate to reach an enrollment of 800,000 the first year Federal obligations would be \$1.1 billion plus whatever portion of \$850 million in construction costs would be federally supported. Parts of these costs could be borne by agencies other than OEO.

8. OEO's present legislative authority is adequate to undertake any proposed level of expansion with two exceptions: