

Of the current total of 1,050 Community Action agencies more than 700 are in rural areas. They are making it possible for rural people to share in the benefits of many Federal programs which formerly were out of reach because the people did not know they existed or lacked the knowhow to take advantage of them. They are reaching and stirring hope in the poor who otherwise were hopeless and forsaken.

The technical action panels, or TAP's, are an integral part of this effort.

Many Federal agencies with programs intended for all the people lack the organization to reach rural America. Small communities lack the staffs of planners, engineers, lawyers, and others needed to take advantage of Federal services.

The Department of Agriculture has at least four programs in every rural county, operated by the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, the Agricultural Stabilization, and Conservation Service and Extension Service. These agencies have joined together to form county and State technical action panels. Other Federal departments and State and local leaders have been invited to participate.

The TAP's have the machinery to answer any inquiry in the field of rural areas seeking development. This means that any rural individual, family, or community seeking access to antipoverty or development services can get one stop service at the country level.

In many counties the TAP's and CAP's work in double harness. They meet together, plan together, and pool resources. In this way they can reach the poor and the poorest of the poor. They are getting results. Planning and action programs are going forward not only in individual counties but on a multi-county or regional basis as well.

In the Elk River Valley in Tennessee, for example, 32 communities action centers are bringing health, employment, and education services to a 10-county area where almost half the families have incomes below \$3,000. The Neighborhood Youth Corps, Headstart, and Upward Bound, are opening doors of opportunity. Ninety-one persons, formerly unemployed are now working and contributing members of the community—thanks to a manpower training program.

The Community Action agencies, the State extension service, and TVA have assisted low income farmers to get into a fertilizer program—which helped boost farm income in the area by \$1 million a year for the past 2 years. Programs of livestock improvement and forestry management are also underway.

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, six multicounty community action agencies are using an umbrella agency, UPCAP, to provide expert assistance in administration and planning. UPCAP was formed with the help of the extension service in 1961. It was reorganized in 1965 to bring to the area the advantages of the Economic Opportunity Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other new antipoverty measures.

UPCAP has fostered economic development, small business developments loans, on the job training, NYC, legal services, and HUD grants. Thirty-one neighborhood centers are providing counseling and referral services. Other available programs include Headstart, dental care, a workshop for the handicapped and a high school di-