

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 1593

TUTORING PROGRAM

To help an adult to improve his English so that he can find a job; to encourage a child to practice his school lessons so that he will finish high school.

There are many adult men in Santa Clara County who are skilled enough to work but do not speak English well enough to be hired. There are a surprisingly large number of jobs waiting to be filled by qualified men in this area, but they require English-speaking men. One goal of the tutorial is to help a man to improve his poor mastery of English, or to help a child to want to do his work, to encourage him, and to show him the horizons that will open to him if he tries.

No knowledge of Spanish is necessary. In fact, volunteers who can converse in Spanish may do their students a disservice by not forcing them to use English.

Students are given individual assistance and currently fifteen are receiving benefits from such aid. Several mothers have signed their children up and anxiously await the first tutoring session. Grades of the children involved are reportedly improving and show signs of increased interest in the classroom.

MEDI-CHECK

To diagnose disease and refer to practicing doctors. Because poverty in this county is not localized but is spread widely, it is not possible to bring doctors to the poor; the poor must go to the doctors. But on their own they do not go, whether from fear or ignorance. If encouraged and told the significance of disease, and made to understand that their cost will be small if any, and further convinced that they won't be hurt, they'll go.

Medi-Check employs medical students who will give an hour or two a week in poor neighborhoods and labor camps, talking to the parents and children and recommending further care by a physician when appropriate.

Several recipients have profited from this program at the rate of four per week. Thus it is one we hope to expand in the next fiscal year. Additional funds are needed to offer transportation to those who need it to get to the clinic doctor's office or hospital.

DRIVERS EDUCATION

This program was primarily aimed at the large segment of women who could obtain employment if they had access to transportation, ie, many had transportation available, but did not know how to drive themselves, and thus still had a problem. The training is done by volunteers, but insurance difficulties as well as the lack of a car for training, in some instances, have lowered the actual participation number. However, five are now being given private instruction, with a waiting list of thirty-seven.

AUTO MECHANIC SHOP

A session designed to equip the untrained and unskilled man with the art of automobile repair, so that he can do mechanic's work, for which there is a demand, as well as keep his own car in operation, and thus be able to maintain a job. The program has enrolled sixteen regular students with many more waiting to sign up. Several have been placed as Service Station Attendants as a result of the training.

Although the class is being taught by volunteers, we're having a very hard time getting volunteers and instructors who have on-the-job experience. We have gone through four instructors in six or seven weeks. We also desperately need facilities to teach the courses in, such as, abandoned service stations.

We are able to place any men we can train. But without funding to pay instructors and obtaining adequate facilities, we cannot get adequate training to the class.

EMPLOYMENT

This is still the major problem encountered in the Area 7 office, since the large majority comes for reasons that pertain to jobs. We have thus sponsored job counseling which aids on the average of fifty people or more per month. In