

The Board of County Commissioners continues to serve as grantee, sponsor, and administrator of all programs developed under the Act of 1964. It acts as fiscal agent for all project funds, employs all program personnel, manages and administers all phases of the program.

As the new order became a reality, word was received that The Neighborhood Development Project had been funded for one year, until September 1967, at \$95,000, 10% to be provided locally. It calls for "multi-service" neighborhood centers in target areas, their purpose "to develop an environment in which families can find inducement and initiative to break the cycle of poverty."

Project Director is Mrs. Esther Lane, who describes her headquarters at 429 NW Second Street as "two cubicles in a corner of the building used by the Friends Society and known as Neighborhood House." Its central staff includes Employment and Vocational Counselor Edward Jennings, Family and Home Management Counselor Mary Ellen Mardis, Coordinators of Volunteers Rosa Williams and John C. Thomas, Jr., and Secretary Evelyn Smith.

Neighborhood aides are being hired to bring information to target areas and to link neighborhoods with central staff and the agencies of the community. VISTA workers provide important help for the new Centers.

Already in operation are the day care centers in Newberry and Hawthorne, adult education and general recreation center at Waldo, and after-school study hall at Alachua. Several other neighborhoods have plans under discussion.

Things are moving along.

From the League of Women Voters of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

Locally in our Arapahoe County, after several years of organizational difficulty, a meaningful CAP program was established. However funds are not available to begin the program behind which the community has united. The Arapahoe Opportunity Foundation, the Interfaith Church Council, the Tri-County Health Department and the Welfare Department have worked earnestly to establish a Multi-purpose Center that would coordinate the functions of the various county and local organizations at one central point located in a target area whose people have shown a desire for such a center and program. It is discouraging to have strived for so long to finally organize a practical program only to realize it may not have a chance to be productive.

From the League of Women Voters of Yonkers, New York

While the programs now being conducted in Yonkers are for the most part worthwhile in their intent, we feel particular emphasis should be placed on the work-training programs as embodied in the Neighborhood Youth Corps and the Multi-occupational Training Center . . . Project Enable, under the direction of its dynamic and dedicated Director has developed a program of self-help, successfully reaching the poor in his area, and helping them to establish communication with the "power structure". The multi-service centers too are reaching out and involving the poor. These programs are helping the disadvantaged they service to develop a sense of worth and a hopeful outlook for the future.

From the League of Women Voters of Champaign County, Illinois

It is a sad fact that in our community funds are being cut back or denied just when interest in the E.O.C. has been established and participation of the poor is beginning to be a reality. This will create bitter frustration and suspicion, and will leave the community more divided than ever.

Another real stumbling block is the utter chaos in our Chicago Regional Office. Personnel turnover is high, agreements made with one administrator may be annulled by his successor; decisions seem often arbitrary and irrational.

From the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, Missouri

We feel that HDC which is our local agency carrying out the Economic Opportunity Act is a distinct asset to the community, especially in its establishment of neighborhood stations which are located in the midst of the poor. The programs developed in the stations are of varied importance, but they have given people in these areas hope, a voice in their own affairs, and services which formerly were too far removed from their lives. There are administrative difficulties, some duplication of services, etc., but we are beginning to make some headway in this fight against poverty. More jobs for people, especially those with few or no skills are needed. Longer range financing, largely federal in nature, with the fewest possible restrictions attached is another vital need.