

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 2919

ative agency into the picture; the Trumbull County Vocational School Board of Education will become the governing agency for the training phase of the project.

The on-site residence phase of this program is operated by a non-profit corporation, whose income is limited to a minimal daily subsistence allowance. No charge is made for supportive services or administrative overhead. The Mahoning Valley Vocational School Corporation is responsible for providing lodging, food service, recreational facilities, health programs, and other services not covered in the educational program. These services were initiated from a \$250,000.00 trust fund established by the Leon A. Beeghly Foundation, and the continuation of these services are dependent upon the solvency of the fund through room and board charges to the students. The charges made for board and room are equivalent to the subsistence allowances received by each student. In order to keep this rotating fund on a fiscally sound basis, it is necessary to keep school enrollment between 400 and 450 students. Toward the end of each section, and beyond the time when replacements can be made, school enrollment dips below this level and, as a result, income is reduced. Also, when a student is absent and his weekly subsistence allowance is reduced, his payments to the corporation are reduced proportionately despite the fact that the expense of operation continues. This less-than-need income does two things to the program: (1) the fund operates at a loss with no alternate methods of recovery available and (2) there are no funds available to provide services still needed nor to improve and expand those now being provided.

The maximum capacity at Mahoning Valley Vocational School is approximately 485 with an average enrollment during the year of approximately 425 and a yearly total of approximately 900. These 400 plus trainees, referred from all over the State of Ohio, are being trained in one of 14 different vocational areas. The courses are either six months, seven months, or eleven months in length depending upon the complexity of the particular vocational area. The job placement rate of the graduates at the present time is approximately 80%; thus this school is an instrument of positive action in Ohio's campaign to provide a new opportunity for its male youth, to provide job skills and better employment opportunities, and to encourage a wholesome attitude towards society and life in general.

It is our humble opinion that Mahoning Valley Vocational School is performing a very important function in a complex society. We have many success stories and some failures. In the following report you will find narratives on the characteristics of disadvantaged youth and the various phases of the Mahoning Valley Vocational School project. This program has been made possible by the cooperation of many agencies listed on attachment "A," including a tremendous amount of on-site cooperation of the U.S. Air Force with whom we share facilities.

Characteristics of disadvantaged youth

Trainees are selected for the training program based on the broad criteria of disadvantaged; economically, culturally, educationally, and socially. Each has a complex multi-factor pattern of needs.

The following is a list of some traits of this group that seem to be common to a large percentage of our trainees:

1. Intelligence potential is usually higher than tests indicate. Many lack the "know-how" of taking tests, therefore job performance or other manipulative experiences are truer indications of potential.
2. Basic educational skills, such as reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic are usually below the true ability of the trainee.
3. Many have been out of contact with any formally organized influence on their lives. As a result, several boys past 18 have not even registered for the draft. Many do not have the slightest knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities. This group has a higher rate of minor infractions of the law, due to ignorance of the law.
4. The physical condition and coordination are very poor.
5. There is an untrusting attitude about adults. When the boys first arrive, they test the staff to see what kind of reaction they'll show.
6. Social immaturity is quite prevalent.
7. Many have a very poor estimate of self and disbelieve any good about themselves and will not accept the fact that they have any worth.
8. Many have been slow to learn but are not slow learners. They learn by experiencing and in concrete concepts. This is a slower process than by verbal, abstract methods.