We urge the Congress to provide a minimum of $3.6 billion for Economic Opportunity Act programs for fiscal year 1968. This is a conservative amount based on 5-year projections for the Office of Economic Opportunity.

C. Greatly increased versatile funds need to be appropriated for the hub of all antipoverty efforts—the community action program. Congress should continue to support the local community's right to determine the shape of a community's antipoverty program. While there are many common problems in dealing with the elimination of poverty, availability of local talent, resources, and desires make the solution of poverty in each community a unique undertaking.

D. Central to the community action program is the concept of maximum feasible participation of the poor in all aspects of local antipoverty programs.

We view the words "maximum feasible participation" as an act of rededication to fundamental democratic principles—and as a public acknowledgement that all Americans are entitled to enjoy the full status of citizenship, including the opportunity to contribute toward the common good. Participation of the poor seeks to bar condescension and paternalism and confers the right to participate. * * * We would hope that the Congress would continue to stress the importance of this concept, highlighting the "quality of involvement" of persons from low-income areas in these programs.

Some have mistakenly suggested that supporting such involvement has only led to trouble, and, in fact, to riot. Actually, the contrary is the case. It is where the poor have gained the power to influence their immediate communities that the spectre of riot does not hover.

We need not less, but more, involvement of the poor. We need not less, but more, support of OEO programs embodying this principle.

E. One of OEO's most important innovations has been in developing "subprofessionals" and "new careers" jobs for the poor. Originally developed in response to the Congress mandate that the programs of OEO be developed with the "maximum feasible participation" of the poor, these jobs have gone beyond involvement.

Through redesigned jobs, "new careerists" have also proven they can assume many of the less technical tasks of professionals, thus increasing the efficiency of the professional staff and relieving pressing professional manpower shortages in health, education, and public welfare.

Just underway are programs funded under the Scheuer amendment to the EOA. They are potentially one of the most effective means of training poor people for new jobs and carriers to help them gain the skills needed to permanently escape poverty.

F. The administration proposal to raise local matching contributions by 100 percent would be disastrous to local antipoverty efforts. Many rural areas, particularly in the South and smaller cities, would find it difficult, if not impossible, to provide 20-percent matching contributions. Stipulating such an "entrance fee" would be a severe blow to the poor of this Nation who would be precluded from continuing and developing new self-help programs.

The Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty (CCAP) opposes increasing local matching contributions to 20 percent and urges the Congress to reduce the amount to the original 10 percent. We fully support the