

The Office of Economic Opportunity operates 12 different programs through the Leslie, Knott, Letcher, Perry Community Action Council, Inc., commonly referred to as LKLP. It is organized by a board of directors of 40 persons, 10 from each county, more than one-half of whom are members of the poor, or so-called target group.

These 12 programs are carried out by a staff of 685 persons; 67 of these are in the professions, 150 are teachers or clerical, and 368 from the "poor." The 12 projects cost the Federal Government \$2.6 million and directly benefit 62,422 persons. This is a cost of \$42.50 per person. After you hear a brief description of each of the 12 projects, I think you will agree that the Federal Government is securing a real bargain in cost benefits.

The 12 programs are briefly outlined as follows:

1. Conduct and administration. This component has two separate areas of activity. First, it maintains an administrative staff of professionals who do the management, administrative and program development tasks for the four-county area. Its secondary function is a guidance and referral program. Fifty thousand people are directly benefited from these two areas of activity.

2. Thirteen persons working at the Millstone Sewing Center directly benefit 550 persons by: (1) providing employment for low-income residents; (2) giving useful training in the skills involved in sewing and (3) on a need basis only, providing clothing for many, especially children, who would not have been able to go to school due to lack of clothing.

3. General education and vocational program is designed to work exclusively with out-of-school, NYC enrollees, who function at educational levels ranging from zero through six; 500 youngsters receive direct benefit from two volunteer workers and five staff persons.

4. Headstart. This program provides an educational headstart for children who are preschoolers and members of low-income families; 1,528 preschoolers receive direct benefits; the mothers receive instructions on homemaking and nutrition. This program receives widest acceptance by the general public and has 100-percent approval of the educators. It is my recommendation that Headstart be given expanded funds to accomplish two purposes: (1) Evaluate the results of the current program, as I am sure they will be a pleasant surprise to everyone; and (2) to make Headstart a continuing summer program that carries the children between first and second and between second and third grades. Perhaps the program could even be expanded to higher income groups with such groups paying fees to send their children to Headstart in areas where there is no public or private preschooling available. Gentlemen, I can honestly say to you that I have never heard one derogatory remark about Headstart. It is a fine program.

5. Leslie County health program. A comprehensive effort to upgrade the health standards of a whole county. This is the only intensive rural health project funded by OEA in the entire nation. If you could see this county, you would instantly agree that it is money well spent. Picture in your mind a county population of 15,000 with a family income of \$1,836 per year, living either along the main roads or in the small communities extending along innumerable creeks and hollows of narrow, twisting valleys. The rural roads are extremely poor and