

3810 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

special needs and connected only by complicated and loosely-defined governmental jurisdictions. Long Beach is the second largest and one of the oldest cities in the county, with a total population of just under 400,000. Through the years it has developed self-governing and self-supporting educational, welfare, economic and social resources.

Within the city there are several pockets of poverty where the number of families whose income is under \$3,000 exceeds 20% of the population of that area. In these areas there exists a high percentage of broken homes and inadequate housing. According to figures from a study of 1960 Census records, 56% to 64% of people over the age of 25 in these areas have not completed high school. (See appendix.)

Since January, 1967 the Long Beach community action agency has been funded and organized according to Federal Guidelines. Representation is given to the various sections of the city where the poor reside and neighborhood councils are being organized with CAP coordinators acting as liaisons to the agency. We believe the Long Beach area should retain as much control and administration of local programs as possible.

We believe too that the role of a community action agency is to encourage initiation, development and evaluation of local programs which reflect community needs. For instance, in Long Beach a local volunteer community organization in a poverty area has developed tutorial self-improvement projects, and basic literacy programs for adults. Other proposals are designed to meet deficiencies in the areas of health, vocational instruction, community education and literacy. Most of these programs have been under consideration for funding for two years. However, ear-marking of funds makes it impossible to innovate new programs. The League of Women Voters feels that in the long run locally initiated and locally administered programs will be most beneficial.

Programs in education and employment have shown results. We have witnessed some individual cases in which the cycle of poverty is being broken. A well-planned program for Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees at the Municipal Airport has enabled a large percentage of them to find employment in private industry.

In order that the CAP agency can be most effective there *must* be *coordination* and *communication* among all governmental agencies. At present, there is a lack of such coordination. Recently, in an interview, the director of the local CAP agency related how he sometimes learns about other poverty programs in the community by chance—such as the funding of a training program for culinary workers to be carried out by an organization in the city. By using the CAP agency as a clearing house, this program and others like it would have access to other community resources which would help achieve greater effectiveness, better participation, and eliminate possible duplication. We support the concept of a CAP agency which can coordinate the Federal programs with the community-initiated programs and available community resources.

In conclusion, we can see in CAP the beginning of a community effort to meet poverty problems. But it cannot do the job with insufficient funds. We need to have patience, make changes where necessary, and use long-range perspective in evaluating results.

APPENDIX

FIGURES FROM "POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF LOW INCOME AREAS IN LONG BEACH," LONG BEACH COMMUNITY WELFARE COUNCIL, INC., FEBRUARY 1967

	Percent of families with income under \$3,000	Percent substand- ard housing	Percent not com- pleting high school, over 25 years of age
Downtown.....	32.5	10.4	56.8
Central.....	27.9	14.2	64.0
West Long Beach.....	23.2	14.8	56.3
Redondo-Anaheim.....	21.1	7.5	52.4
Carmelitos.....	67.2	county housing	70.3
All of Long Beach.....	16.5	6.5	46.3