

4060 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

3. *The Neighborhood Boards*

All of the organizations so far described operate on a citywide basis. To develop a mechanism by which the poor could participate more directly in the affairs of the program, the city was divided into a number of neighborhoods and local people were brought together to form boards which perform the following purposes:

"To organize and establish a concrete dialogue between the impoverished or unorganized community and the middle class or established institutions and provide a base for a truly democratic process at all levels."

"To foster a variety of programs obtaining infinite participation, administration and guidance to meet the most critical needs of the poor in the area."¹

Membership in the neighborhood board was officially open to all those in the area. This group was then to elect a governing body of 117 members with the following composition:

Residents of housing projects.....	35
Tenants outside housing projects.....	15
Youth organizations.....	15
Homeowners	5
Political organizations.....	5
Church organizations.....	5
Union organizations.....	5
Educational organizations.....	5
Social organizations.....	5
Officers of this group.....	11
Chairmen of standing committees.....	11
Total	117

The membership at large also elects the officers of the above described board.

4. *Organization of the Center*

In addition to the neighborhood board, a small staff established a center in the community. The staff includes a Community Organizer, a Community Researcher, a Community Worker, and a clerk-typist to serve an area of 100,000 population. They operate from spacious quarters in the center of the area they are to serve. In theory, the staff is to carry out the desires of the board and to provide the board with technical assistance in program formulation and development. Policy indicates that Center personnel are to be hired by the CAA upon the recommendation of the Neighborhood Board.

Although the staffs of the various neighborhood centers in this city are small, their efforts are supposed to be supplemented by services of aides assigned to them by the CAA. There is to be a formal program administered by the CAA which recruits and trains young people for community action work. Their training is to consist of two weeks apprenticeship in the Community Action Division of the CAA followed by on-the-job training assisting in a neighborhood center. During this orientation period, daily supervision is to be given the recruit by the staff, supplemented my weekly conferences with the staff supervisor of the area Board.

One of the most popular aspects of the Center is the opportunity for employment of residents.

5. *Who Controls the Center?*

The Neighborhood Board was established to fill an advisory role in relation to the Center. It can recommend to the CAA Director the staff it desires and the programs it wishes to carry out. Final decisions regarding staff, programs, and policy remain with the CAA, however. CAA controls the budget.

The original position of the CAA was that the Center staff should serve the Center boards but activities to support this position have not developed. Therefore, the Center staff remains clearly under the domination and control of the CAA official responsible for community organization.

6. *Budget*

The budget for the staff of the neighborhood centers is allocated from the administrative budget of the entire community action program. To give some

¹ Constitution and By-Laws of Neighborhood Board, Article II.