

4084 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

6. Budget Information

The total CAA budget through the spring of 1967 is for slightly less than \$400,000. Of this total, approximately 20 percent is for the administrative units, 50 percent is for all neighborhood service centers in the city, and the remaining funds are distributed through other projects. The Center being studied has a budget of approximately \$30,000. There is also employment counseling at the Center which is not funded through the Center budget.

7. Center Programs

In a sense, the CAA program for the entire city has not yet been entirely formulated; the early conflicts and recent reorganization of the CAA have kept the program in a constant state of flux. Thus, the role of the Center has not yet been clearly defined.

At this time, the functions of the Center are perceived to be: (1) to determine resident needs, (2) to coordinate available services and make people aware of them, and (3) to create demonstration programs to meet needs of the people that are not met by existing agencies.

It appears that there is some inconsistency in the implementation of these goals. Need determination does not seem to be matched by resulting programs and policies. The only needs that have actually resulted in programs seem to be the needs of the youth. Juvenile problems are highly visible in the area and it is appropriate that they should receive attention, but the Center seems to be oriented toward this age group to the exclusion of the needs of the rest of the population. Other age groups also have pressing needs and to date the Center has innovated no programs to take care of them. Problems of the aged and ADC mothers are significant in this area, although they are less evident and less directly disruptive to the community. Health and housing problems in the area have also not been treated with a definite solution by the Center. Individual crises regarding housing, health, the aged, and the ADC mothers, have been dealt with as they occur but no all-inclusive programs have been formulated to arrest such problems.

8. Outreach

In the short time that the Center has been in operation it has managed to reach about one-third of the population of its area. Center policy and methods of operation devote a great deal of emphasis to the outreach program. Determination of resident need requires that the Director and most of his aides spend a majority of their time in the field going door to door, meeting the people face to face, communicating by word of mouth to tell people about the Center and new methods of meeting their problems. The staff emphasizes frequent short visits to people in the surrounding area.

An indirect method of outreach noted by our observer developed as a result of the informality of the Center, which in fact attracts a great many people per day for social visits. Although the Center is generally full of residents they are not necessarily there "on business." Most Center contacts appear to be merely social in nature and neighborhood residents "drop in to find out what's happening."

When residents do not come to the Center, the Center goes out to the residents. This fact was illuminated during the Council elections when Center workers and volunteers took the ballot boxes into the homes so that every resident could vote.

It is difficult to determine from our data exactly how many contacts the Center makes in any given month. Records of services to clients are kept on file at the Center. For instance, we would be able to find out that the employment counselor saw 185 people in June or 56 people in March and that 38 people were referred to the Welfare Department in March, but these figures would be misleading in trying to determine the total number of Center contacts. It is estimated by the Director that almost 1,000 people have some sort of contact with the Center each month.

9. Target

The area served by the Center under study has a population of about 7,000 people living in a small crowded section of a large industrialized city. About 53 percent of the area's people are 19 or younger; about three percent of the people are sixty or over. About ten percent of the residents are Negro and these people live in a concentrated section of the area of the Center. The area is typified by a high birth rate, substandard and overcrowded housing, juvenile arrests, and unemployment.