

4092 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

5. Budget

Since the formation of the city's anti-poverty program, over \$40 million of federal grants have been provided with an additional \$8 million of funds and contributions from other sources. To give an idea of the magnitude of the center program, its annual budget is approximately \$8 million and each center has a budget in excess of \$1 million.

6. Center Programs

All of the city's anti-poverty programs, including pre-school, youth corps, small business, and others, are closely related to the neighborhood centers, outposts, or program stations which are designed to bring programs and people together.

The neighborhood centers are to have the following functions:

"(1) To provide coordination of public and voluntary services at the neighborhood level.

"(2) To reinforce interaction between public and voluntary agencies and the people.

"(3) To strengthen services of existing community institutions by providing an opportunity for these institutions to propose new programs and review programs coming into their community.

"(4) To provide new services only when there is no institution in that community which can adequately provide the needed services.

"(5) To employ community residents in a wide range of expanded community action services.

"(6) To develop maximum self-support in communities by encouraging creation of new services financed and staffed by local residents."¹

The purpose of the centers is conceived to be to insure that persons in the target area are receiving all of the services they should have. The purpose is not to organize the poor to provide them with power to redress their grievances. This attitude is basic to the entire poverty program in the city and as stated previously is reflected in the views of staff members of every echelon.

CENTER "J" (I)

7. Target Area

The previous section has been a general description of the formal organizational arrangements existing at the CAA and all neighborhood centers in the city. This section describes the activities at one of two centers under study in the city and provides information about specific implementation of programs which are not fully revealed in the formal organizational arrangements.

Center I was established in February of 1965 to operate in an area with over 200,000 persons, 95 percent of whom are Negro. This area of the city is well-established in that it has been a Negro community for many years and it has a highly developed social and political structure. There is a large respectable middle class but there also exists a high percentage of unemployment (12 percent). Approximately 35 percent of all families in the area have incomes of less than \$3,000. All the anticipated symptoms of a poverty stricken area prevail here and the area abounds with crime, gang warfare, crowded and filthy housing conditions, and the various accidents and illnesses resulting from these.

8. Relationships With Other Organizations

The referral and coordinative functions of the centers and the CAA are frequently mentioned as being very important to the success of the entire program. At the highest level the mayor is able to insure the cooperation of all city departments and, to a large degree, of county, State and private organizations. Almost all of the anti-poverty programs of the city actively involve these other organizations as delegate agencies, sponsors or participants in other ways. This is not to say that there are no disagreements of approach, jurisdiction and method but they are clearly "family squabbles" and as such tend to be solved within the family. There are administrative problems but no problems of basic policy. It is the view of the leaders of the anti-poverty program that they have to reform the established agencies to the extent that traditional patterns of service are modified and become more effective. These changes obviously do not take place without some friction.

¹ Community Action Program Narrative Progress Report, for period ending December 31, 1965.