

4112 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

It appears that the Center has indeed reached several thousand people of the area, and our researcher commented that the Center was constantly overflowing with clients. Counselors now have more clients than they feel they can serve sufficiently, and the Center building itself is becoming more and more crowded. These facts are true, however, of all agencies in the area. During the summer months of last year, the numbers of clients receiving services increased by more than 100 percent. In April 586 persons were served; in May the statistic reached 1,207, and in July 1,198 were provided with a specific service.

Though the statistics and observations reveal that many of the needy are being reached by the Center, Center personnel feel that there exists in the area a hard-core group that is devoid of ambition. The apathy of the hard-core poor is a source of frustration to them. However, the outreach effort has been rewarding to Center and agency personnel in that they have been able to help a great many more people than they possibly could have before the advent of the poverty programs.

9. *Target Area*

The Center under study is one of three located in a city of almost 500,000 people. The area served by the Center includes both urban and rural areas, housing projects and farms. The population of the area is heterogeneous, and includes over 55,000 Negroes, a high percentage of immigrants from Latin American countries, and a smattering of Orientals.

The unemployment rate is not extremely high (less than five percent), but almost 30 percent of the city's population have incomes of less than \$3,000 per year. About 20 percent of the housing is substandard and is typified by extremely filthy and crowded conditions in the housing developments. Clients with whom we talked described their living conditions, and a typical picture emerged of families of several generations living in one room, sharing kitchen and bath facilities with many other families.

Poor education is a prevalent condition, with the majority of the area population having less than an eighth grade education. Among those who finish high school are many who cannot find employment because of lack of vocational skills and training. College is out of reach for most of these youngsters, not only for financial reasons, but because they are ill-prepared academically for any further education.

10. *Services*

The overriding emphasis of Center program is placed on individual service, the coordination of available services, and the provision of emergency service. Basic to the service emphasis is the philosophy that assistance should be provided until the client can be rehabilitated to the status of self-sufficiency.

Unemployment, underemployment, and housing are the most conspicuous problems here, and the greatest demand for services occurs in these areas. The resources of the State Employment Service are utilized to provide vocational counseling, training programs, and job placement for area residents. Many referrals are made to day care centers for the children of mothers who must work, and the Center has plans for the operation of its own day care center. The Department of Urban Renewal has donated and renovated a building for this program.

Problems of housing are met by a number of services, ranging from location of adequate housing for clients to a number of classes in homemaking on a limited budget. A plan for a demonstration apartment in a housing project is proposed. The program is designed to demonstrate low-budget decorating and maintenance, proper food and diet, and safety in the home. To assist with the various housing programs, the Department of Urban Renewal has supplied personnel to work with the Center staff to find better housing for residents.

Problems of health are paramount among this population, and a great deal of activity involves referrals to hospitals, convalescent homes, a rehabilitation house for alcoholics, schools for the mentally retarded and the hard of hearing. Counseling and psychotherapy are offered to the mentally ill. Counselors have been instructed in the symptoms of mental illnesses so that they can refer clients to appropriate specialists, hospitals, or the guidance center of a nearby university.

In surveys of the area, aides are expected to discover individual needs in regard to specific housing problems—plumbing, drainage, overcrowding. Center personnel are often called upon to provide or locate emergency service in situations where a family is suddenly without food and shelter. In such cases, the