

ment of five teams of about five workers each, and the efforts of the paid staff are supplemented by Vista and NYC workers. Each team is stationed in a separate location, and all teams are supervised by the Outreach Director who has offices in a CAA-operated Neighborhood Center.

Each worker is assigned certain blocks in the area and his duty is to systematically visit each family in his designated section, discover the needs of these families, encourage them to take advantage of services, and organize them into block clubs for overcoming broader social problems.

A look at the statistical data for the month of August, 1966 indicates that over 1,000 area residents were contacted by Outreach Workers during the period. Over 400 of these were active in group organizations. The remainder were provided with service by Outreach or referred to another agency for service.

8. Target Area

Located in a city of over 1,500,000 population, the area served by the Outreach Program under study includes about 85,000 individuals, or over 18,000 family units. Of these families, 5,169 (about 28 percent) have incomes falling under poverty guidelines. The male unemployment rate is 13 percent. Housing conditions are deplorable and residents of this area have long been the victims of false promises by the city government and the housing authority to extend help.

About 90 percent of the Negroes of this city live in the area where our study was conducted. These people have been subjected to open practices of discrimination in almost every area of their lives. As a matter of city government policy, there has been a lack of housing code enforcement in Urban Renewal areas and in this particular target area. The Housing Authority has tacitly practiced discrimination and Negroes are placed on long waiting lists until all non-colored applicants are given priority for newly-built urban renewal units. Thus, for the Negro with a large family there is an acute shortage of available low-cost housing.

The building trade unions practice discrimination almost as conspicuously as does the Housing Authority. The building trade unions have achieved little or no compliance with federal laws requiring equal employment opportunity, and many unions have no Negroes at all on their membership rolls. Those who do allow Negroes in their memberships allow them to play only a minority role in policy-making. For example, there are only 17 Negroes among 1,038 apprentices in 22 building trade unions.

Lack of educational preparation precludes many of these people from attending college and thus entering into the professional fields. As in many cities, inadequate financing is a major obstacle to quality education in low-income Negro areas. Thus, per-pupil expenditures in these areas are lower and, consequently, the students in Negro schools show lower levels of achievement than students in white schools.¹ The school dropout rate is high in this area—about 15 percent each year.

Health problems caused by filthy and overcrowded living conditions, inadequate diet, and lack of medical care reach serious proportions in the area. Incidences of infant mortality, maternal deaths, and mental retardation are particularly high.

Without recourse or alternative, the Negro population of this city has been for many years confined to life under these conditions. Their efforts to seek government assistance have been completely ignored or met only with unkept promises. After many years of complacent acceptance of these conditions, residents could contain themselves no longer and during the summer months, the area became the scene of violent eruption of looting, burning, and terrorism which in the words of one national guardsman, looked "worse than anything he had encountered during World War II."

9. Services

The direct provision of services was not intended to be a function of the Outreach Program; rather, the original role of the Outreach Worker was that of liaison between the residents and the rather complex maze of services available in the community under the auspices of established agencies and the new OEO-sponsored programs. The Outreach program was funded to provide information regarding services and to direct clients needing specific service to the agency which could provide it. Outreach Workers do in fact make many referrals to

¹ "Unfinished Business in the Inner City," a report by a Subcommittee of the State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.