

Mid-Appalachia College Council, Inc., an inter-state consortium of 13 private liberal arts institutions of higher education and a present contractor with the Educational Talent Search Program, has presented for over a year a penetrating and convincing story to allow its activities to include remedial services. The Project Director of the Mid-Appalachian Youth Education Opportunities Project emphasized in his report that the fulfillment of the objectives of Talent Search in this region requires more than the encouragement of the enrollment in college of students who have recently graduated from high school. Students from some of these remote high schools enter college unprepared to meet the competition of students who have gone to larger high schools, and who have graduated from secondary schools in the more populous centers. The fact is that their reading comprehension is far below average, so far, indeed, that they cannot keep up with their fellow students in freshman courses requiring the reading and understanding of the English language. It can be shown that some high school graduates in this region have a vocabulary of 1,000 words or less. As a result, these students have little or no chance of surviving in college, and most of them drop out during their freshman year. While the Educational Talent Search Program staff was responsive to the needs of these students, realizing that "*Talent Searching*" in itself is insufficient, no affirmative answer for summer remediation programs could be given. As the Honorable Carl D. Perkins has indicated—"The waste of talent resulting from the inability of thousands of Appalachian youngsters to continue their education in college is both terrible and unconscionable. I have little patience with people who bellow about the waste of money on one hand, but on the other are quite complacent and unmoved by the waste of human talent and potential that goes on all around them. I certainly hope that Talent Search can do something to impress upon people just what a dreadful waste this is."

These quotations from Oakland University of Rochester, the Mid-Appalachia College Council, and the Honorable Carl O. Perkins underscore the fact that getting disadvantaged students into college and arranging for adequate financial aid are only two components of an effective institutional assistance program. A necessary and complementary element is to provide special compensatory services designed to correct their deficiencies such as low reading ability, low general school achievement, low interest and motivational level, poor health status, etc. Without such concentrated efforts, the student will remain marginal in his performance, and it is of no benefit to the student, the college or society if he enrolls only to drop out within the first year or two.

#### RELATED FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Several Federal programs are now in existence which provide greater opportunity for needy and disadvantaged students to enter college. Student aid programs authorized under the National Defense Education and the Higher Education Act are now providing financial assistance to many thousands of disadvantaged students. Two programs in particular, are noteworthy: the Educational Opportunity Grants Program, which provides financial assistance to academically qualified high school graduates of exceptional need to enable them to attend college, and the College Work-Study Program, which provides for part-time employment for students attending institutions of higher education who are in need of earnings to pursue their course of study.

The Educational Talent Search Program seeks to identify, through a program of grants and contracts to institutions and other educational agencies, talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds and to encourage them to enter or re-enter higher education.

The Upward Bound Program is a pre-college program, operated largely by colleges and universities, for poverty high school students. It is designed to remedy poor preparation and motivation in secondary school, and thus increase the student's chances of enrolling in college.

The proposed program would complement the Federal programs already in existence and would in effect, increase their effectiveness, by providing the necessary additional special compensating services to the disadvantaged student after he has been admitted to college and assure that he will succeed in his academic career.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

It is the purpose of this proposal to meet the need for special services to the disadvantaged student so that he can readily adjust to his new environment and