

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING
OF MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM

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IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZATION

If the planning of the Model Neighborhood Program is to be successful, it is absolutely essential that all key participants in the program are well organized. This means that the following organizational matters should be accomplished before planning begins.

1. The Model Neighborhood Executive Board should be formed to act as the ultimate authority of the program. It should allow representation from all levels of government - city, county, state, and federal; residents of the Model Neighborhood area; and residents of the city-at-large.
2. The Model Neighborhood staff should be formed, including the executive director, the three chief planners and the technical staff.
3. Stable local organizations which adequately represent the residents of the various neighborhoods in the area should be in operation. While those organizations should be representative of the interests of all residents and give everyone a voice in their affairs, they should not be so cumbersome that they cannot work effectively with the planners.

In other words, it will be physically impossible for the planners to carry all of their work directly to the 'grass roots' organizations of the area. This may be necessary for some key issues, but for the most part planners will have to work with a small committee of 10-20 persons if they are to accomplish anything worthwhile.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING OF MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Model Neighborhood Program offers an excellent opportunity to bring about basic improvements in one of the most problematic areas of Atlanta. The area selected for the program contains all the varied and complicated forms of urban blight which plague American cities today, from overcrowded, substandard housing to incompatible land use mixtures to poor street conditions and inadequate community facilities to all facets of socio-economic poverty and deprivation. Most of these conditions have deep roots and are so complex and of such a nature that it will take nothing less than a special concentrated long-term effort to eliminate them. So far no major city in the country has been successful in eliminating them.

The Model Neighborhood Program can bring about the special concentrated effort which is needed to alleviate the conditions of the 'Model Neighborhood' area. It is designed to pool the resources of the city, county, state, and federal governments along with those of private interest groups to make a total attack on the serious and widespread problems of the area for a period of several years. The funds it provides will support the program through the planning and implementation stages.

However, if the Model Neighborhood Program is to avoid the mistakes of many previous efforts to help slum residents it is very important that the program be carefully planned and that local residents be involved throughout all stages of planning. The purpose of this report is to show how community participation can be effectively fitted into the planning of the Model Neighborhood Program.

Hence the neighborhood groups of the area should be capable of forming such a committee which can work with the planners and relay this work to the 'grass roots' groups. It has been suggested that the steering committee of the various neighborhood groups in the area serve this function.

PROCEDURES FOR PLANNING

The federal government has set the procedures for the planning of the Model Neighborhood Program. The period allowed for planning is one year, beginning with the date of the congressional announcement of the program (Nov. 15, 1967 - Nov. 15, 1968). During this period the following planning items have to be submitted to the federal government for approval:

1. Problem Analysis, Goals & Program Strategy Statement
2. Five-Year Plan
3. First-Year Action Program
4. Planning and Evaluation Program
5. Statement of Administrative Structure for Implementation

Of these planning submission requirements, the first one - the Problem Analysis, Goals and Program Strategy Statement - is probably the most important, as it will set the stage for the rest of the planning effort. It will establish the general orientation of the Five-Year Plan and the First-Year Action Program and will initiate the general procedures for community participation in planning. Thus, it can serve as a guide as to how the local residents will be involved in planning.

PROBLEM ANALYSIS, GOALS AND PROGRAM STRATEGY STATEMENT-GUIDE TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING

The preparation of the Problem Analysis, Goals and Program Strategy is divided into three stages or milestones: Problem Analysis; Goals; and Strategy. It is intended that the Model Neighborhood planning staff and the community will be working closely together in this preparation so that the best of their ideas will go into the final statement submitted to HUD.

(1) DISCUSSION REPORTS

The basis of the working relationship between the Model Neighborhood planning staff and community will center around discussion reports to cover each milestone: Problems; Goals; and Strategy. These reports will be done by the planning staff and designed to stimulate discussion among the residents. They will not be the final word on anything, but merely present the information available to the planning staff so as to initiate community involvement and discussion on the significant planning issues. The community will be able to criticize, add to and/or subtract from the reports.

For example, the first report will cover the subject: Problem Analysis and attempt to identify and survey the major conditions and problems of the Model Neighborhood area which justify treatment. It will:

- a. define and document the major conditions and problems as far as available data will allow and according to following categories: employment; housing; schools; recreation; land use; health services; family, legal services; police protection; and other.

- b. present the information in a simple and concise manner so that lay citizens will have a minimum amount of trouble in reading it.
- c. provide a brief questionnaire on which residents can rate the priority of problems in their community according to the above categories in (a).
- d. provide space in which residents can criticize the contents of the report, i.e., redefine problems, reorganize data, contribute additional ideas, etc.

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

The reports are to be distributed to each of the six communities in the Model Neighborhood area. They will include information on the area as a whole and on the particular community to which it is distributed.

It probably will not be feasible to get written responses from all residents of the area. But perhaps certain people from each community could be responsible for surveying the responses of the residents, summarizing them, and writing them down to be returned to the planning staff.

The reports will be allowed to circulate for a maximum period of two weeks. This should give enough time for residents to gather up their written responses to the report. Also during this time it would be desirable to have a general meeting in each community, where residents can freely express their own ideas about the subject matter of the report.

After this circulation period which hopefully will bring about fruitful dialogue and exchanges between the planners and the community, the planning staff should then be in a position to draw up final reports on Problems, Goals and Strategy which fully incorporate the ideas of

the residents. These reports would then make up the final Problem Analysis, Goals, and Program Strategy Statement.

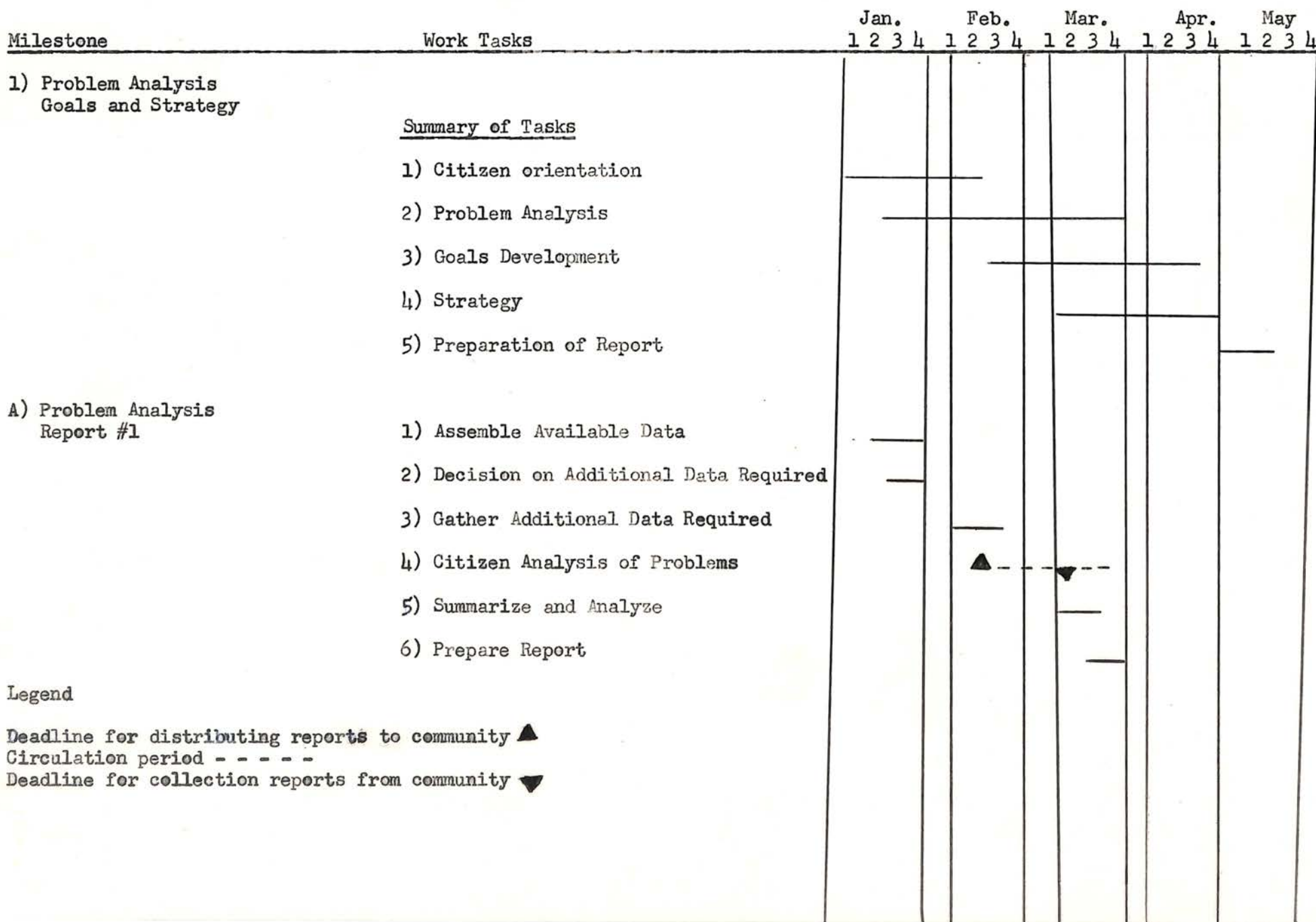
ATTACHMENTS

Attached to this report are:

1. a chart which shows how the deadline dates and circulation periods of the discussion reports fit into the work program for the Problem Analysis, Goals, and Program Strategy Statement.
2. a sample outline of Report #1, Problem Analysis.

DISCUSSION REPORTS CHART

PLANNING ACTIVITY



Miltestone	Work Tasks	Jan.				Feb.				Mar.				Apr.				May			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	<u>Summary of Tasks</u>																				
B) Goals Report #2	1) Document Existing Goals																				
	2) Citizen Goals Setting																				
	3) Synthesis and Report Preparation																				
C) Strategy Report #3	1) Develop Program Approach																				
	2) Establish Program Priority																				
	3) Identify Critical Changes Required																				
	4) Report Preparation																				

REPORT #1 - PROBLEM ANALYSIS
SAMPLE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

- A. Purpose of report - to identify and document major conditions and problems of area
- B. Brief description of Model Neighborhood Area and its six communities

II. Problems of Model Neighborhood Area as a Whole

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Housing | 6. Health services |
| 2. Employment | 7. Family, legal services |
| 3. Schools | 8. Police protection and community relations |
| 4. Recreation | 9. Other |
| 5. Land Use | |

III. Problems Which Are Especially Acute In Particular Community (e.g. Grant Park)

While Grant Park contains all of the problems affecting the Model Neighborhood areas as a whole, it is especially hardpressed with the following problems.

- 1. Employment
- 2. Family, legal services

IV. Questionnaire: How Do You Rate Your Community?

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Etc.</u>
___good ___fair ___poor	___good ___fair ___poor	

V. Comments

- 1. Do you think this report adequately covered the main problems of your neighborhood?
- 2. What problems do you find not mentioned in the report?