

ABSTRACT OF YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - 1968

The overall objectives of the Youth Opportunity Program are to provide needed services to the poor, unemployed, socially retarded, culturally deprived and academically delinquent youth. The major efforts of the Youth Opportunity Program are aimed at eliminating these conditions.

The 1968 Youth Opportunity Program is coordinated by the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council. The Council is serving as staff to the Metropolitan Youth Opportunity Council.

Every community organization, social agency, Neighborhood Service Center, youth club and other private non-profit groups were invited to submit programs and alternatives which could be operated with or without federal funding.

Employment:

Several agencies and organizations will be giving assistance to the youth employment aspect of the Youth Opportunity Program. The following agencies will furnish jobs:

National Alliance of Businessmen	3,300
Summer Recreation Proposals	1,000
Federal Agencies	700
State Agencies	
Subsidized Jobs (Neighborhood Youth Corps, Vocational Education, Title I, etc.)	600
Miscellaneous Placement - Youth Opportunity Campaign	<u>500</u>
Total Committed -----	<u><u>6,100</u></u>

The Youth Employment Center, Georgia State Employment Service, will be responsible for screening, counseling and placement in the youth employment phase of this program.

Education:

In the educational aspect of the Youth Opportunity Program, efforts will be made as follows:

1. To provide needed remedial and tutorial programs for poor youth;
2. To provide vocational information and educational activities needed by youth to enter into the labor force;
3. To allow creative and innovative educational programs not possible during winter months;

4. To allow coupling of educational, employment, cultural enrichment, and recreational programs;
5. To offer programs and courses not generally available to poor youth during regular school year.

The major operating programs will be summer schools operated by the Atlanta, Decatur, Fulton and DeKalb Counties School Systems. A fee is charged for these schools; however, the Atlanta Public School System has indicated that no needy child will be denied admission to summer school because of money. PTA's and other community groups are promoting attendance of summer school for children needing remedial work.

In addition to the regular summer program, several special programs will be provided under Title I and III EASA by the Atlanta and DeKalb County Boards of Education.

#### Recreation:

The goal is to provide available recreational and/or leisure time activities in amount of frequency and distance.

It would be interesting to briefly summarize the recreational aspects of the Youth Opportunity Program. A total of 35 proposals will be proposed. The federal budget request on these proposals totals \$600,000.

An integral part of the recreational-cultural aspect of the program will be resident and day camping programs. Effort was made to increase the number of day and resident camp slots available to poor children and youth. Presently, slots are available for 2,538 youths in resident and day camp activities in this program. Many agencies are making many of their regular summer camp slots available to poor youth. These include the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, YMCA and YWCA, Bethlehem Centers, etc. These organizations will provide day and resident camps for non-members. In addition, the City of Atlanta Recreation Department will operate a camping program. The Jewish Community Center will make its day camp facilities available to groups of poor youth throughout the summer.

Many youth will spend weekend camping trips at the State and National Parks. Equally important is the fact that these projects will employ approximately 1,000 poor teenagers and young adults.

#### Operational Organizations:

The City of Atlanta Parks, Recreation and School Departments will carry the major responsibility for the recreational program. In addition, the cities of East Point and Roswell will provide special recreational programs.

The United Appeal Agencies, the EOA Neighborhood Service Centers, and several community-based youth and young adult groups will provide special programs.

The members and associate members of the Arts Council will provide meaningful art and cultural programs. In order to supplement these programs, several businessmen and women as well as several club groups will provide special programs of recreation for needed children and youth.

Cultural and Arts Programs:

There are a total number of fourteen cultural art and cultural programs serving 30,800 children and youth and employing 6,950 youth. In addition, arts and crafts programs will serve another 11,370 children and youth.

Agencies providing these services include:

1. Central City Neighborhood Service Center;
2. Academy Theatre;
3. Ruth Mitchell Dance Company;
4. Dekalb YWCA;
5. Atlanta YWCA;
6. Central YWCA Program;
7. Grady Homes Community Girls Club, Inc.;
8. Metropolitan Boys' Club, Inc.;
9. Butler Street YMCA;
10. Workshop, Incorporated;
11. Summerhill-Mechanicsville Neighborhood Service Center;
12. City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department;
13. H. R. Butler School;
14. Gwinnett County EOA

Adult Volunteer Program:

- I. Introduction - A key to success of the entire youth opportunity program will be the number of volunteers recruited. The manpower needed to carry out the many activities in this program is too numerous to be obtained from the limited funds available. Effort will be made to recruit, train, and place a total of 500 full and part-time volunteers.

These volunteers will serve in a variety of way, such as camp counselors, employment interviewers, game room supervisors, gym instructors, coaches, tutors, bus supervisors, homemaking teachers, arts and crafts instructors, and hundreds of other types of leaders.

- II. Recruitment - Recruitment of volunteers will be primarily through public media, speaking engagements, brochures and flyers. A full page ad will be placed in the three major newspapers. The Federal Government, Labor Unions, several trade associations, professional organizations, churches, and religious groups will be solicited for volunteer services. The Federal agencies are asking all of its 27,000 volunteers to work in this program.
- III. Training - Training of the volunteers will be done by VISTA, the American Red Cross, and the user agencies.

IV. Placements - A special volunteer placement committee is presently at work and will place the volunteers.

Special Events:

An important part of the Youth Opportunity Program will be special events. Several special events will be planned and implemented by the individual agencies and organizations. The School and Recreation Department are now planning special events such as Jr. Olympics, Field Days, Chattanooga-Atlanta Games, and other similar events.

In addition, arrangements are being made to obtain tickets and admission to movies, theaters, athletic events, and cultural activities. Bus, plane, train, and boat trips are being arranged. Picnics, outings and special sight-seeing tours are being arranged. ~~The Special Events Sub-Committee is being chaired by Mr. Steve Fox.~~

Transportation:

One of the most crucial and critical problems to be solved in the Youth Opportunity Program is transportation. Ninety-five percent of all the proposals submitted requires transportation. The present plan is to centralize all transportation and dispatch by request and regular routing. The buses will be obtained from the following sources:

- The Atlanta Transit Company;
- The Third Army and Other Military;
- The Fulton County Schools;
- The Dekalb County Schools;
- Private owners of buses used by the Counties;
- Church-owned buses;
- The Greyhound Bus;
- The Trailways Bus;
- The Continental Trailways Bus;
- The major rail companies;
- State National Guard

An estimate of the transportation needs is illustrated by the requests made in submitted projects. An estimated \$158,000 is needed to provide the needed transportation for resident camps, day camps, trips and tours.