



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ATLANTA, INC.

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TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS

A brief summary of programs funded through
Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. from
January 1965 to July 1967

During the past two and one-half years Atlanta's community action program has moved with great speed. It has, in many ways, become a model for the nation. Thousands of Atlanta citizens and many agencies and organizations have participated in planning the variety of opportunity programs now available.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS

Twelve multi-service neighborhood centers have been established in Atlanta and Fulton County. Two additional centers serve families in Gwinnett and Rockdale counties.

The 14 neighborhood centers have held a total of 116,203 interviews.

Employment counselors located in neighborhood centers placed 7,630 individuals in jobs, not including Job Corps, Neighborhood Youth Corps, etc. Of the centers' total intake, 72% wanted jobs.

Social Service workers have made 71,938 referrals to put families in touch with agencies offering appropriate help, in addition to the numerous cases completed at the neighborhood centers.

Resident Participation: Two democratic elections have been conducted to select representatives of low-income neighborhoods for EOA committees. Nearly 12,000 people voted in the 1967 EOA elections. Approximately 10,000 people participate in 200 block organizations and other EOA committees. More than 500 low-income citizens are serving as elected block captains and representatives to neighborhood center advisory councils, a city-wide advisory council and the EOA Board of Directors. One-third of the EOA Board of Directors is composed of low-income citizens.

Neighborhood Services Aides: Low-income residents of neighborhoods served by EOA have been trained and employed by EOA to assist with its programs. Aides (214 before 1967 budget reductions,

145 now) have contacted 124,004 families to discuss opportunities available through EOA. They have provided continued contact with 53,697 families. Aides also assist with community organization and the work of the neighborhood centers.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Summer Head Start classes have provided cultural enrichment for 3,000 children each of the last three summers.

Nine Day Care Centers provide supervised recreation and enrichment for 700 children of working parents.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Twelve Community Schools have provided education and enrichment in the afternoons and evenings for a total enrollment of 70,482. Funds for this program were cut 82% because of 1967 budget reductions.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS (Out-of-School Program)

Eighty-nine agencies are cooperating to provide jobs for approximately 650 youths. In two and one-half years 3,620 youths have participated in the program.

Another 3,000 youths have participated in a Neighborhood Youth Corps program for high school students administered by the Atlanta Public Schools.

JOB CORPS

EOA recruits boys from an eight county area for the Job Corps. To date, 1,654 have been accepted for Job Corps training, 658 are known to be employed or in the military service.

Recruiting for the Women's Job Corps is handled by WICS. To date, 270 girls have been accepted for training.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Attorneys from the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, under contract with EOA, have served 21,502 cases and have closed 2,760 court cases.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Planned Parenthood Association, under contract with EOA, has served 4,184 individuals.

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Forty-one men and women over 60 years of age are employed to work with children at three institutions.

PROJECT ENABLE

Over 300 low-income parents have participated in a group discussion program designed to increase motivation for self-help.

MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS FOR THE AGED

Recreation, social services and day care are being provided for a total of 1,794 family units in three apartment buildings for the aged.

ATLANTA EMPLOYMENT EVALUATION AND SERVICE CENTER

This is a centralized service, the first of its kind in the country, to diagnose and evaluate work potential and training needs of difficult cases. Approximately 40% of those who have been evaluated are now employed.

SUMMER RECREATION

City-wide recreation programs were conducted in the summers of 1966 and 1967 with funds from OEO. The total 1966 attendance at summer recreation programs was 277,000.

ATLANTA CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

This is a new program designed to place 2,500 consistently unemployed or underemployed people in jobs or training during the next year. Approximately 70 Atlanta businesses and social agencies have volunteered to remove unnecessary entry level job qualifications so that newly trained people might become employed. Many businesses will also cooperate in training enrollees.

PRICE AREA HEALTH CENTER

A new health center will provide complete medical services, except hospitalization, for 22,000 low-income people living in the Price neighborhood. The Fulton County Medical Association, Emory University School of Medicine and 15 other health and planning agencies are cooperating with EOA to establish the center.

VOLUNTEER TASK FORCE

More than 200 local volunteers have been trained and placed in 19 locations to assist with Atlanta's war on poverty.

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA)

Forty-two VISTAs work with EOA.

DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS

Due to Congressional reductions in 1967 OEO funds the following programs were deleted:

Bees-Biz: job training for unemployed, out-of-school youths.

Small Business Development Center: closed as of July 31, the Center interviewed and counseled 850 individuals, approved 300 loans totaling \$326,225.

Home Management Training: classes and demonstrations by qualified personnel to teach cooking, budgeting, sewing, child care, hygiene, consumer buying, housekeeping.

Neighborhood Center Recreation Programs: qualified personnel helped residents develop neighborhood recreation programs.

Homemaker Services: substitute homemakers were provided for low-income households during emergencies.

Public Health Program: four Public Health nurses worked with EOA neighborhood service centers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fifty-one local agencies have contracts with EOA to administer EOA programs.

Total community support, including both cash and non-cash contributions, represents 19½% of all programs coming under the approximately \$17,000,000 CAP umbrella.

Cash contributions from the city and county governments total \$137,744 in 1967.

EOA employs 427 people (145 Aides and 282 regular employees). Before 1967 budget reductions EOA employed 574 people (214 Aides and 360 regular employees).

The City of Atlanta has placed four city employees, called City Services Coordinators, in EOA neighborhood centers.

The Fulton County Commissioners have authorized decentralized voter registration at EOA neighborhood centers and have trained and deputized 65 EOA employees as assistant registrars. More than 1000 people registered to vote at EOA neighborhood centers the first month this program was in operation.

The Atlanta Police Department has placed 10 Crime Prevention Officers in EOA neighborhood centers.

Numerous other agencies, as well as businesses, churches, civic clubs and private citizens are cooperating with EOA in a wide variety of projects.