

A STATEMENT ABOUT THE PARENT AND CHILD CENTER

PARENT AND CHILD CENTERS (PCC) are established to provide services for disadvantaged families who have one or more children under the age of three. Many of the families will also have several older children, or will be planning or expecting to have a baby.

In many cases, a PCC will be linked with a comprehensive Neighborhood Service Center, an organization which offers the residents of a specified geographic area access to a wide range of services and processes designed to help them out of poverty. In others, a PCC may cooperate with a center which may be organized around one certain function, such as a Neighborhood Health Center. Such centers need not necessarily be funded by OEO. Affiliation with a Neighborhood Center facilitates one of the basic objectives of the PCC, that of bringing the whole family into contact with a broad range of services.

The PCCs are funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity in cooperation with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Objectives

In general, the PCCs are established to help families to function independently and effectively and for their children to develop to their full potential. In more specific terms, the programs developed by the planning groups should have the objectives of:

1. Overcoming deficits in health, intellectual, social, and emotional development and maximizing the child's inherent talents and potentialities;
2. Improving the skills, confidence, attitudes, and motivations of the parents as citizens, parents, and individuals;
3. Strengthening family organization and functioning by involving the youngest children, the parents, older children in the family, and relatives;
4. Encouraging a greater sense of community and neighborliness among the families served by the center;
5. Providing training and experience for both professionals and non-professionals who may then be employed in work with parents and children;
6. Serving as a locus for research and evaluation of progress toward the objectives stated above.

The Atlanta Parent and Child Center is being planned in the Edgewood Community.