

atlanta model cities

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"The Model Cities Program, authorized by the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, provides technical and financial assistance to help communities plan and carry out comprehensive programs to upgrade social, economic, and physical conditions in blighted neighborhoods.

A total of 150 communities have received planning funds since the first grants were made in November 1967.

Atlanta was one of the first 63 cities to receive its planning grants and is among the first communities in the Model Cities Program to submit its comprehensive program to receive funds to carry out its first year projects.


The Atlanta Model Cities document includes a definitive use of HUD Supplemental Funds, describing allocations for programs and projects, representing a total of \$7,175,000 in Model Cities supplemental funds. In addition to these funds, the Atlanta Program has been given fund assurances for other programs by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Labor and the Office of Economic Opportunity for activities in the Model Neighborhood. These funds will represent an additional \$16 million for our first year programs.

The Model Cities Program is a new concept and we have all learned as we have gone and are going along. We recognize the fact that if our urban problems are to advance toward solution, it is important, if not imperative, that we alter our attitudes and previously caged philosophies. The program is designed to contribute to a well-balanced city containing a mixture of the facilities and services needed to serve the diverse groups living and working in the city and includes projects and activities further designed to make services and facilities, jobs and housing outside the Model Neighborhood more accessible to neighborhood residents.

We have made conscientious and serious efforts to reap productive involvement from the neighborhood residents. Our document includes and reflects the constructive participation of the residents in planning and the implementation of this program.

We have compiled a summation of the program which we submitted to HUD and includes the allocations for program areas listing their major projects."

-----Johnny Johnson



Atlanta's model neighborhood covers 3,000 acres, and includes 48,000 people living in six sub neighborhoods. The target area ranks far below the rest of the city in income, employment, education and health.

The unemployment rate for the model neighborhood is 15 percent compared to 2.8 percent for the city. Over half of model neighborhood families have poverty level incomes and only 29 percent of neighborhood residents have incomes above \$5,000 a year. Almost twice as many model neighborhood students drop out of high school before graduation as compared to the city as a whole, and 78 percent of neighborhood parents did not complete high school. There are no physicians or dentists living or practicing in the model neighborhood. About 70 percent of the model neighborhood population is Negro.

Atlanta's five year program was developed with the help of 11 central committees made up of residents from counterpart program subcommittees in each of six sub-neighborhoods. The City Demonstration Agency (CDA) including staff members on loan from other public and private agencies provided the committees with technical assistance and staff work for the planning. Plans went from the central committee to the 16-member Steering Committee of the Model Neighborhood Mass Convention, which was open to all neighborhood residents. The Model Neighborhood Executive Board, composed of chairmen of elected councils in the six neighborhoods, six public officials, and two citizens at large appointed by the Mayor, was responsible for policy guidance during the planning and final approval of plans before submission to the Atlanta Board of Aldermen.

Five Year Strategy

The Atlanta Model Cities program will focus on widening opportunities for model neighborhood residents while at the same time attacking root causes of socio-economic deprivation to allow residents to take advantage of actual opportunities. To realize this goal Atlanta will concentrate on programs that support one another and generate benefits beyond initial impact.

According to standards set by residents and the CDA, priority programs are those directed at meeting basic needs of model neighborhood residents. These are housing, transportation, education, and employment. Residents felt that other programs in social services, recreation and culture, and health, are closely related to these primary goals and cannot be fully appreciated until more severe conditions are alleviated.



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Employment

A major goal of the Atlanta program is to reduce unemployment from 15 percent to the city level of 2.8 percent. To accomplish this goal, Atlanta will focus on innovative programs to improve services to the hard core unemployed.

To improve job information and recruitment, the Georgia State Employment Service would operate a communications system with stations located in four outreach posts to relay job information to target area residents as rapidly as possible. A Job Mobile would provide back-up services to the outreach offices for recruiting residents and transporting them to outreach offices for referrals, and to job sites for interviews.

Many residents are unable to take advantage of job offers because they lack money for transportation, clothes or minor medical assistance. To overcome these problems, the program would provide direct medical maintenance funds for eye-glasses and dental work, and an emergency assistance fund to help the new employee meet basic needs until his first pay day.

These activities would support existing programs, such as the National Alliance of Businessmen, which enlists private business to create jobs for the hard-core unemployed, thereby increasing realistic job opportunities and reducing the high unemployment rate.



Economic Development

To strengthen existing small businesses and encourage new businesses to locate in the model neighborhood, Atlanta proposes a Neighborhood Development Corporation to provide low-interest loans to small businessmen. A training program to familiarize commercial loan officers with the special conditions of operating a business in the model neighborhood is also proposed. Supplementing these activities, a Chamber of Commerce to be established for model neighborhood businessmen would identify and give aid to model neighborhood businesses and recruit new businesses.

An existing Outreach Program which provides technical assistance to small businesses will be changed to focus exclusively on the model neighborhood. This program, by classroom instruction, counselling and discussion gives training in bookkeeping, management, and marketing techniques as they apply to the actual operation of small business.



Satisfactory Community Environment

The Atlanta program seeks to eliminate several major sources of blight and decay in the model neighborhood. A Sewer Program Study will determine the best means of controlling the flooding and overflow of old sewers, and faulty sewers will be reconstructed or replaced under the Neighborhood Development Program. Programs to replace and repair water mains and to increase rubbish collection are also included.



Housing

The housing program, identified by model neighborhood residents as a top priority, aims to increase the number of families living in adequate housing by 6,432 or 160 percent. Home ownership among model neighborhood families would be increased by 25 percent.

A key element in Atlanta's housing strategy is establishing a Model Neighborhood Housing Center to include a nonprofit Housing Development and Rehabilitation Corporation and a Home Ownership Agency. The Center would provide extensive housing services to residents and promote self-help programs of housing rehabilitation and construction. The Center will also attempt to promote equal opportunity in housing and assist residents who want to move to other parts of the city. The Housing Corporation would encourage rehabilitation and construction by sponsoring housing projects, providing seed money for sponsors, and doing the technical preparation for housing projects that would then be bid on by commercial builders.

Other programs for housing construction and renewal planned under the Neighborhood Development program would be supplemented by a Code Enforcement program.

USE OF HUD SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS

(Allocations for program areas are shown with listing of selected major projects)

	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>Resident Involvement</u>	\$ 203,000
<u>Employment</u>	955,000
Job training and recruitment	
Direct Medical Maintenance	
Job readiness-Resident Welfare Fund	
Manpower Study; Data Gathering	
<u>Economic Development*</u>	35,000
<u>Education</u>	2,317,000
Middle School	
Extended Day Program	
Pre-School Activities	
New School Construction	
Community School Program	
<u>Social Services</u>	984,000
Day Care Center, Block Mothers & Family	
Day Care	
Recruit & Hire professionals & aides*	
Family Counselling, services to homemakers	
and Senior Citizens	
<u>Health</u>	319,000
Group Practice Health Facility	
Mental Health and Retardation Planner	
Private Practice Group in Model Neighborhood	
<u>Crime and Delinquency Prevention</u>	158,000
Crime Data Compilation	
Juvenile Delinquency Prevention	
Group Foster Home	
United Youth Outreach	
<u>Transportation</u>	277,000
Intra-Neighborhood Bus System	
Specialized Passenger Vans	
Public Facilities Impact Evaluation	
<u>Recreation and Cultural Activities</u>	342,000
Atlanta Girls' Club-expansion of facilities,	
equipment and programs	
Program in Five Disciplines	
Store Front Libraries	
<u>Housing and Relocation</u>	635,000
Housing Development and Rehabilitation Corp.	
Housing Center	
<u>Other Supplemental Funds Not Yet Allocated</u>	988,000

*Dependent on non-HUD Federal agency funding.

Social Services

To meet a serious shortage of day care facilities for children of working parents, Atlanta would use a combination of resources. An extended Day Program for school children and for three- and four-year olds will be supplemented by training residents as family day care mothers and block mothers to care for children during the day and after school.

The Social Services Program emphasizes training model neighborhood residents as sub-professionals to work under the supervision of professionals in a variety of services, including child care and family services. By performing such services, residents are also expected to learn and communicate good habits in family living.

Existing resources would be expanded to provide professional and legal services in the model neighborhood. A Homemaker Service will be expanded to serve all residents who need it, rather than being limited as presently to recipients of public welfare. Services to the elderly would be expanded to include day care, meal-on-wheels, and advocacy for older persons.



Health

Health care for model neighborhood residents is severely limited by residents' inability to get to medical facilities, lack of money to pay for adequate care, and insufficient information on available services.

To remedy these conditions, Atlanta plans a combination of programs to bring health facilities to the model neighborhood and to educate residents to the importance of good health care. Plans call for construction of a Group Health Practice facility in the model neighborhood and recruitment of dentists and physicians to staff it. Atlanta also proposes a program of Prepaid Medical Care to pay medical costs of low-income patients and a medical screening facility to examine all residents of the neighborhood. Residents who need further medical attention would then be referred to a physician.

Family Service Teams would employ and train model neighborhood residents as health aides to work with residents to improve their knowledge and attitude toward the importance of health care, assist residents to health resources, and provide follow-up to health care.



Education

The high school dropout rate for the model neighborhood is 8.9 percent compared to 4.9 percent for the city.

To combat these problems, Atlanta's comprehensive program for upgrading education includes construction of new schools, expanded vocational education programs, curriculum redevelopment, pre-school activities, and adult education. Existing programs such as Curriculum Aides and Teacher Aides would continue. New programs such as the Extended Day Program to keep schools open 11 hours a day, a Twelve Month School program for all model neighborhood high schools, and a Communications Skills Laboratory are designed to increase the impact of the schools on the community. To deal with environmental effects on the education process, plans call for School Social Workers, a Parent Education program to help parents with home related problems, and a program of Curriculum Development and Family Living to improve the self confidence and social acceptance of children. Atlanta also plans a special Middle School for children in grades 6-8.



Crime and Delinquency Prevention

Although crime and delinquency rates are expected to drop as a result of other programs to alleviate basic causes of socio-economic ills, the Atlanta program calls for immediate activities.

The Georgia State Department of Criminal Justice would conduct a Crime Data Compilation project to further assess and offer approaches to solving the crime problem in the model neighborhood. An existing program of using model neighborhood residents as Community Service Officers attached to the Crime Prevention Bureau would be expanded. To prevent juvenile delinquency from becoming a problem of crime, the program calls for a United Youth Outreach program in which young people would be employed by the Atlanta Children's Youth Council to reach "hard core" young people in the model neighborhood. A Group Foster Home for Delinquents and Pre-delinquents will also be established to serve adolescent boys between the ages of 14 - 16.



Recreation and Culture

The limited recreational and cultural facilities in the neighborhood do not meet the needs of residents. Transportation difficulties prevent the majority of residents from benefiting from existing recreational facilities.

The program calls for buying land suitable for development of open space parks, Block Parks and Playlots. Park facilities will have full-time recreation staffs to provide organized recreation activities for all age groups. As an interim measure while parks are being developed, the program proposes five Mobile Recreation Centers to provide recreational opportunities for residents.

The program also calls for activities to develop cultural pride and encourage self-expression among residents through classes in music, drama, dance, visual arts, and creative writing. Professional artists working with classes of 20 are expected to reach 1800 model neighborhood residents a week in this program.

The program proposes three store-front libraries within easy access of bus routes and parking facilities.



Transportation

Unless transportation facilities are improved, model neighborhood residents will be unable to take advantage of job opportunities or health services.

A key element in Atlanta's transportation program would be an Intra-Neighborhood Bus System to provide transportation for residents within the model neighborhood and to surrounding areas. Operating in a loop pattern, these buses would provide access to shopping facilities, health centers, and points of transfer to other bus routes. Also planned is a system of specialized passenger vans for pre-school day care children, the elderly, the handicapped, and those in need of emergency services.

Programs for street repair and widening, sidewalk construction, and street lighting will be continued and expanded.

Resident Involvement

The program calls for a series of special activities to increase the quality and quantity of both model neighborhood resident involvement and mutual involvement of neighborhood and city residents in the program. An incorporated nonprofit Model Cities Resident Organization would become the central body for recruiting residents, involving residents in future Model Cities planning and working with other groups in the neighborhood. To organize neighborhood youth and coordinate youth activities, a Model Cities Atlanta Youth Council would be established to serve residents age 14-21. The Atlanta program also proposes a special Resident Training project to give residents skills in leadership, self-help activities and social planning. A newly created Community Relations Commission would direct a program to increase city-wide participation in Model Cities through activities such as a Talent Bank to increase the use of volunteers and a series of Town Hall meetings throughout the city.



MODEL CITIES PERSONNEL

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