

I. Preamble

This proposal for a nursery program of day care and child development activities is submitted to the Model Cities Program for consideration of its merits for funding under 1969 appropriations.

Southside Day Care Association has found it necessary to request emergency funding for this phase of its program because of three recent developments:

1. Southside has recently acquired the use of the school building previously occupied by Pryor Street Elementary School. This facility is not only more substantial and more adequate for an effective day program, it also increases the capacity of the center from ninety-one (91) to over 135 children.

2. Within weeks of Southside's move into its new facilities, the funding agency of its program initiated policies which 1) phased out all services to children under two years of age, and 2) proportionately reduced enrollment quotas of all delegate agencies operating day care centers; Southside's quota was cut from ninety-one (91) to eighty (80) children. Thus, instead of being able to expand its services to needy families, Southside has had to reduce the number of children to more than fifty below its capacity.

3. In the two months Southside has occupied its new location, it has had to refuse child care to more than sixty children from families that qualify for its services under the E. O. A. poverty guidelines that govern admission policies. In most instances, these were children of mothers who were seeking child care in order to be able to accept jobs and raise their living standards above welfare subsistence levels.

The proposal outlined in this document will maximize the use of Southside's facilities. The center will be able to care for fifty-two additional children of mothers needing its services in order to work and improve the economic and personal wellbeing of family. The salaries these mothers earn, even at minimum wage levels, will return over \$100,000.00 into the economy of the inner-city.

The public schools will be open shortly. Surveys have shown that 80% of the absenteeism in the schools results from older children having to stay home and care for the little ones while mother works. Southside's preschool and nursery programs are presently operational. The new openings for day care services this proposal makes possible would be available in a matter of weeks.

This proposal for the nursery program at Southside, if funded, will make it possible for Southside to continue to serve the needs of mothers with an infant as well as an older preschool child needing care; these mothers--the ones with the most children--are usually the ones who need day care the most. There is no other major center offering quality day care services, operating or proposed, within miles of Southside that offers day care services to mothers of children from infants to school age. Without funding, these mothers will have no day care services available that will release them for gainful employment.

In addition to recently acquiring more suitable and spacious facilities, Southside has entered upon a joint venture of cooperation with the School of Education at Georgia State College for the purpose of developing the center into an experimental laboratory for the College's students in early childhood education. The coupling of the professional resources of a major school of education with Southside's four years of continuous experience in educa-

tional day care has important implications: major research findings indicate that educational stimulation during early childhood is the most promising antidote to educational deprivation brought on by the conditions of poverty. Research also indicates the importance of continuing the nursery program at Southside as a part of this project; it suggests that more than 50% of the intellectual potentials of the adult is determined by the kinds of learning experiences he had before he was two years old.

In view of the foregoing facts, the sponsors of Southside Child Development Center suggest that no public funds expended can benefit so many, so directly, so quickly, or so meaningfully, as funds invested in its plans for the nursery program outlined in this proposal. No money spent at this time has any greater promise of finding answers to the burden of poverty today, and to its alleviation tomorrow.