

# THE ATLANTA CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES COUNCIL



## ANNUAL REPORT 1967 - 1968

HON. IVAN ALLEN, JR., Mayor  
ROBERT M. WOOD, Chairman  
JOHN W. COX, Executive Director

# CITY OF ATLANTA



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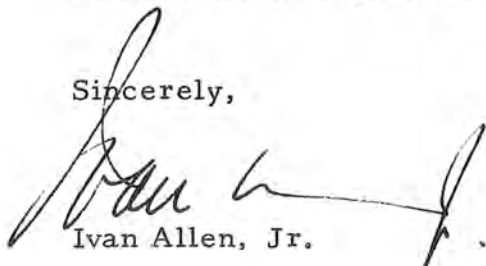
Greetings:

The Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council, in its second year as the city's official agency for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, has begun a difficult task.

During the coming year, its functions are to be greatly expanded in line with the aim of building sound programs for the youth of today who are our citizens of tomorrow.

As Mayor of Atlanta, I congratulate the Youth Council's Board and staff for its accomplishments in the past. I am equally confident that the future work of the Council will result in even greater success, as will be reflected in the decrease of youth crimes and delinquency in our city.

Sincerely,



Ivan Allen, Jr.

## INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, February 1966, the Youth Council, though in its infancy, has made significant progress in fulfilling its mission and function.

The changes in the patterns, incidents, and prevalence of delinquency are but a small part of the kind of work effort and / or impact which the Youth Council has had on the services which Atlanta provides for its children and youth.

As a coordinating agency, most of the Council's work has been through and in cooperation with other agencies in terms of coordination, developing, planning, implementing, and funding programs. A list of the agencies cooperating with the Council may be found in the Appendix.

The activities of the Council have ranged from providing assistance to individual children and their families to assisting community groups; to working with planning and funding agencies like Model Cities, E.O.A., United Appeal, Christian Council, as well as many other federal, state, and local agencies.

THE ATLANTA YOUTH COUNCIL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mrs. Clayton Yates

Ex. Officio Members

Hon. Herbert T. Jenkins.....Chief of Police  
Mr. John W. Letson.....Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Jack C. Delius.....General Manager of Parks

#### WHAT IS THE COUNCIL?

The Youth Council is an official municipal agency created in 1966 by the Mayor and Board of Alderman. This agency is designed for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and the development of children and youth. In this capacity it has a multi-faceted responsibility for city wide planning, coordination, formulation and implementation of community programs for delinquency prevention and control and youth services.

#### WHAT IS THE COUNCIL EXPECTED TO DO?

The Council is expected to: (1) Obtain cooperation and coordination of existing programs, effects and agencies; (2) collect, interpret, and disseminate information about programs and projects related to youth; (3) assist agencies in finding and obtaining financial and programmatic resources; (4) provide technical assistance and consultation on youth programs; (5) assist agencies in the training of staff; (6) support and initiate necessary legislation and public policies to facilitate services to youth; (7) and to stimulate and work for the establishment of new and inovative programs that will alleviate problems affecting children and youths with priority on delinquency and deviant behavior.

#### IN WHAT AREAS OF SERVICES IS THE YOUTH COUNCIL CONCERNED?

While the Youth Council is primarily concerned with deviant behavior and more specifically juvenile delinquency, the Board of Council recognizes that delinquency is only one form of deviant behavior and is in no way inclusive of the total gamut of problems facing our children and youth. Therefore, the Board of the Council has broadened its functions in such a way as to assist agencies with any problems related to children, youth, and young adults in the area of health, education, welfare, delinquency, recreation and other areas of children and youth problems.

#### SPECIFICALLY FOR WHAT KIND OF SERVICES MAY AN AGENCY OR AN ORGANIZATION CALL ON THE COUNCIL?

1. As speaker, discussant or participant in meetings, conferences, etc., your agency may be conducting;
2. to provide technical assistance and consultation;
3. to gather and provide statistical information or source of information about youth programs;
4. to serve as a convener and give staff assistance to groups and agencies where program services are overlapping, duplicated, lacking or uncoordinated.

5. to assist agency Boards and staff in interpreting, clarifying, and changing programs effecting youth services;
6. to establish contact with the proper public and private agency that may help in meeting a need or concern of the agency;
7. to assist agencies, and organizations in setting priorities and meeting unmet and new needs which may exist in the community.
8. to assist agencies and organizations in publicizing and distributing information about their services and special programs which they may be undertaking;
9. to conduct and assist agencies in conducting staff development and training program in the areas of youth services;
10. to distribute funds to operating agencies that may become available to or through the Council for their use in operating and carrying out programs related to the purposes and objectives of the Council.

## FACTS ABOUT ATLANTA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### Training and Employment

The young worker age 16-21 will account for 45% of the increase in the nations labor force.

The youth employment role for non-high school graduates is 14%; for high school graduates is 6%; for college graduates is 3%.

1 out of every 4 youth seeking a job in Atlanta has not completed high school. 3 out of 10 entering the labor force will not have finished high school.

Unemployment rates for Negro Youth continues to increase. It is doubled that of the White Youth. The employment rate for the black ghetto in some areas run as high as 50-80%.

As many as 75,000 high school and college youth were looking for jobs during the summer of 1967.

Urban Migration of rural youth, many of these negroes; the poorly educated, the unskilled, and unprepared for complete urban life, and its frustrations, is posing a serious problem of employment and training for the City of Atlanta.

There were a total of 2,032 youth served through the Atlanta NYC, in and out of school programs.

### Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime

In 1967, more than 10,000 juvenile cases involving auto theft, larceny, robbery, and burglary, glue sniffing, gambling, lottery and malicious mischiefs were handled in the courts in the Atlanta area.

There were more than 1,000 juveniles on probation in Fulton County.

More than 50% of all persons arrested for major crime in Atlanta are below 17 years of age.

Recidivism among delinquents and criminals runs about 50%.

The crime and juvenile delinquency rate in Atlanta has increased almost 10 times faster than during the 11 year period from 1955-65.

22% of total crimes and delinquency committed in the city is committed in the Model Cities Community.

Approximately 50% of the state's arrests are related to the socio-economic level. The juvenile delinquency rates in Atlanta is 6, 15, 23, 37 per 1,000 releases compared to 50 for the United States and 25 for Georgia.

Abandonment of minor children cases resulted into 473 sentences.

Excessive use of alcohol is a contributing factor in 70% of the criminal cases in criminal court in Fulton County.

The number of serious crimes in Atlanta during the first quarter of 1968 rose 20% over the same period in 1967.

There were 164 civil disorders reported during the first 9 months of 1967, 5% were major, 25% were serious, but not major, and 70% were minor.

#### Education

There were 253,438 youth in the Metropolitan Atlanta school systems in 1967. There are 115,000 in Atlanta proper. The figures for the Metropolitan area includes 165,535 students in elementary school; 34,503 in high school and 35,330 in special and night classes. There are 6,415 students actively enrolled in Vocational Education programs.

The dropout rate for Atlanta is about 7%.

Less than 50% of the children who enter school in the first grade ever reach the 12th grade in the Atlanta Public Schools.

The absenteeism rate among students in high delinquent areas is critical. The median percent of all high school students attending Atlanta Public Schools was 90% in 1967. The median rate for those high schools serving low income areas was 35%.

A cross-the-country report cites the following reasons for persons dropping out of school; disinterest, home responsibilities, unfavorable parental attitudes, peer influence, unhappy home situations.

The same report characterized the typical potential dropout as: underachievers, irregular attendances, frequently tardy, non-participants, a discipline problem. purposelessness, and male sex.

Approximately 90% of the youth in Atlanta's schools terminate their education after high school.

The city's schools are seriously overcrowded and predominately Negro. At the same time, the suburban school systems remain predominately white.

The reading achievement levels of children living in the inner-city are 3 to 7 grades below that of the average 8th grade student.

#### Physical and Mental Health

There are approximately 120,000 mentally ill persons in Atlanta, about



16,000 of these are children.

The infant mortality rate in Atlanta runs as high as 42 per 1,000 population in the lowest socio-economic areas. This is 3 times that for the city. The infant mortality rate for Negroes is twice that of whites.

Half of Atlanta children under 15 have never visited a dentist. The Health Departments in the Atlanta area are able to serve only 10% of the children needing dental care.

At least one out of every 250 teenage boys and girls contract V.D.

#### Recreation and Leisure

The areas most lacking and in need of recreational services have the highest population densities and levels of poverty, so that persons cannot provide their own recreational outlets.

Most of the fine arts and cultural programs are not available to children and youth in the inner city except through the schools.

Fine arts programs offered by the various art and cultural organizations provide little or no service to minorities and for inner city youth.

One of the major sources of recreation and leisure in Atlanta is the public library. There is a definite shortage of funds available to the library for branch expansion, audio-visual and outreach programs.

#### Children and Youth Welfare

There are some 300 boys and girls returning to the Atlanta Community from the Youth Development Centers, many of these have no place to go and no meaningful way of re-entering the community.

There is a real need to assist adoption and foster placement agencies in finding suitable placements for hard to place children.

Many fatherless boys are in need of positive father images of big brother types with whom they can relate or identify.

The problem of illegitimacy in the country and in Atlanta is very serious. There were 300,000 illegitimate births in the United States. There was more than 2,890 illegitimate births in Atlanta.

HIGHLIGHTS of the ATLANTA CHILDREN and YOUTH SERVICES COUNCIL'S WORK  
for 1967-1968

The specific activities undertaken by the Council to fulfill its objectives were as follows:

- A. Formulation of Community Programs of Delinquency Prevention to be carried out by Public or Private Agencies.
- + Participated and advised the Atlanta Board of Education in developing programs which would train teachers to identify and deal with room mental health problems.
  - + Participated with the schools and Community Chest Agencies and other public agencies in developing programs for children attending half-day classes in the northwest schools.
  - + Assisted and worked with the Atlanta Arts Council in developing Art and Cultural programs for inner-city children and youth.
  - + Advised and worked with the Emory University - Grady Hospital in developing an adolescent pregnancy project for the Howard High School area.
  - + Developed a health examination program for participants in the Youth Opportunity Program through the services of the Fulton Medical Association and the Red Cross.
  - + Advised and worked with the Atlanta Board of Education, Vocational, Educational Division in developing a high school work-study program.
  - + Assisted the Georgia Arts Commission in developing and funding a photography program for arts in the inner-city.
  - + Developed along with the Atlanta Arts Council, Georgia Arts Commission a painting arts program funded by the Arthur Harris Foundation.
  - + Developed and cooperated with EOA in a special inner-city Arts program with Leroy Neiman. This project is funded by EOA.
  - + Worked with the Board of Education, federal volunteers, and the Crime Prevention Bureau in developing a massive Back-To-School Campaign.
  - + Worked for changing the city's child labor laws to make it possible for more kids to get jobs.
  - + Met with the Community Chest Metropolitan Boys Clubs, Officials of the Coan School and the Board of Education in developing plans and programs for newly created East Side Boys Club in

the Kirkwood-Edgewood Area.

B. Implementation of Action Programs, carried out by the Council's own staff.

- + Developed a tutorial program for persons participating in the Absentee Project utilizing federal volunteers and vacationing teachers.
- + Developed with assistance from the Regional Office of HEW, Higher Education and several college in the region an "Off-Campus work-study program" which provided student staff for agencies in the city.

C. Providing Technical Assistance and Consultative Services to Agencies

- + Provided technical assistance to the House of USE in developing an employment program for hard to reach youth through the Program (EOA).
- + Provided technical assistance and cooperated with EOA, Greater Atlanta Arts Commission and the Atlanta Arts Council in developing a proposal to the National Foundation of Arts and Humanities for an inner-city art program.
- + Provided assistance to the Atlanta Parks and Recreation Center in developing a special music instrument program by the Elliot Foundation.
- + Advised and assisted in the development of a cooperative educational recreational program with the 3rd Army in the Harper-Plunket-town areas.
- + Advised and worked with the Community Chest agencies, EOA, and other agencies in developing a program for Unwed Mothers in the Nash-Washington area.
- + Provided technical assistance to the Georgia Department of Labor in developing a proposal to improve the quality of service provided for participants in the Youth Opportunity Campaign.
- + Provided technical assistance to the Westend Neighborhood Service Center and the St. Anthony's Church in developing their Rent-A-Kid project.
- + Provide technical assisting to hundreds of youth and youth groups throughout the city in establishing a city wide Youth Congress, whose primary objective is to bring together groups and discuss problems facing teenage youth in the city.

D. Planning Activities

- + Served on the Subcommittee on Day Care Programs with the staff

of the Community Council of Atlanta in developing a day care project in the Westend area.

- + Advised and participated with the Community Council of Atlanta, The Community Chest, Parks and Recreation Department in developing the city's comprehensive recreation plan.
- + Assisted several community groups in developing ad-hoc recreational projects for children in the inner city. These include the Third Army, The Playboy Club, Federal Employees, B'nai B'rth Lodge and several churches.
- + Attended several meetings dealing with expansion and finding solutions to problems.
- + Approached the Christian Council of Atlanta to get them to develop summer activities in the churches.
- + Approached the Community Relations Commission about:
  1. Problems related to children and youth.
  2. Police and youth relations

#### E. Coordination of Activities

- + Developed and coordinated efforts with E.O.A., City Public Works Department, Fulton and Dekalb Health Departments and other agencies in developing a Rodent Control Program to reduce the problem of rats in the city as well as to increase youth employment.
- + Coordinated and worked with Health, Education and Welfare agencies serving the Edgewood-Kirkwood area in helping them to more effectively cope with the problems of juvenile delinquency.
- + Coordinated with St. Vincent de Paul and the Atlanta Youth Development Center programs in the Bedford Pines Community.
- + Coordinated the work for the Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity.
- + Provided a coordinated approach of work in the Capitol Homes area with the Board of Education, Park and recreational Department.

#### F. Information, Clearinghouse Services

- + Handled over 2,000 calls and inquiries involving youth services.
- + Distributed information to the National Association of Theater Owners, National Photography Owners, National Entertainment Association about the providing several programs for the inner city communities.
- + Developed and distributed an inventory to children throughout

the city on summer opportunities.

- + Developed and distributed an inventory to children of the community on fall opportunities.
- + Held several discussion sessions with agencies around developing and planning programs for youth in the areas of delinquency.

#### G. Public Affairs and Public Policy

- + Contacted the Board of Education about increasing the number of summer school scholarships to poorer kids.
- + Held an Annual Meeting.
- + Prepared a number of correspondence to Congressmen supporting needed legislation in reference to youth.
- + Supported legislation to begin kindergarten programs in Georgia.
- + Supported the Juvenile and Safe Streets and Crime Bill.
- + Supported the Juvenile Court Reform Bill.
- + Supported the Special Education Program for exceptional children.
- + Supported the increase Budget Appropriations for Medical Service for Retarded Children.
- + Supported the ending of extended classes in the public schools.
- + Supported the extension of hours that city swimming pools are opened.
- + Supported the O.E.O. Amendment.
- + Worked against certain portions of the Social Security Amendment, and supported the moratorium of the implementation of these amendments.
- + Gave more than 100 speeches in the community and made approximately 10 radio and television appearances.
- + Held the 1967 Mayor's Fall Conference on Children and Youth.
- + Co-sponsored an all day Conference on Adolescent Unwed Motherhood.

#### H. Inter-Agency Relationship and Participation in Community Activities

- + Contacted and assisted the Chamber of Commerce and the United Appeal in developing a massive job and fund raising drive for the Youth Opportunity Campaign.

- + Developed and participated in an Interagency Task Force in the Edgewood-Kirkwood area.
- + Developed an Interagency Task Force in Dekalb County.
- + Developed a close working relationship with the Community Chest in meeting needs in many of their service areas.

## 1967 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN

For the third consecutive year, and at the request of the President of the United States, the city of Atlanta in early spring set in motion its Youth Opportunity Campaign coordinated by the Atlanta Youth Council.

Discussion gave early indication that the 1967 campaign should not be limited to employment only, but rather should broaden its scope to include other areas of tremendous importance to Atlanta's youth. Thus, a four-point program was adopted covering paying jobs, volunteer services, summer school, and recreation.

### Employment and Volunteer Services

The campaign provided an opportunity for students to complete a summer job application while still in school. This early recruitment was planned to help eliminate the end-of-school lag jam of applications which might occur at the Youth Opportunity Center operated by the Georgia Department of Labor. This plan would also provide guidance by the counselors for the less motivated youngster needing help in taking this important first step, and in addition would give the counselors the opportunity to put volunteer services into the right perspective with other types of summer activities.

The total Youth Opportunity effort received 9,660 applications, 498 orders and 1,463 job openings.

745 youth were hired, 467 male and 278 female, through the cooperation of the Georgia State Department of Labor, Atlanta Public Schools, Georgia Retail Association; and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Lack of time and established machinery for recruiting and assigning youth volunteers did not permit a really strong effort in this area by the 1967 Campaign. An examination of Public and Private agencies in the recreation area indicated that thousands of volunteer hours were given by youth.

### Summer School

The campaign encouraged Summer School enrollment for students who needed to catch up or who wished to get ahead academically. Courses and programs in the summer school offered a broad choice to students needing remedial work or desiring advance courses, and enrichment programs. These provided a combination of learning and fun that appealed to many youth and young adults. Remedial and enrichment programs on the elementary level served 7,043 children at 31 schools and 7,637 at 10 high schools.

### Recreation

Finally the campaign focused attention on the many worthwhile recreation, athletic and enrichment programs available at parks and recreation centers, community schools and private agency facilities. This phase of the campaign included a directory of such programs, compiled

for each quadrant of the city and distributed to school children of all ages, encouraging them to participate in some form of recreation to round out their summer. In addition and more closely related to the employment phase of the campaign, 15,000 tickets were made available for Youth Opportunity Night at the Atlanta Stadium sponsored by firms and agencies participating in the Youth Opportunity Program.



## 1968 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

In late January 1968 Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Chairman of the President's Committee on Youth Opportunity invited the city of Atlanta to a special meeting in Washington, D.C. The overall purpose of this meeting was to provide activities for disadvantaged youth in the areas of Employment, Recreation and Education.

Atlanta began immediately to plan and coordinate programs for youth activities using all available resources.

Federal assistance was given to help Atlanta get its program underway. This assistance included a \$30,000 planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. These planning funds were utilized by the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council, the official coordinating agency for the City of Atlanta.

The staff of the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council was assigned the responsibility for broad coordination of the entire Youth Opportunity Program. The program was designed by April 1968 and implemented in June 1968.

Members of the staff are: John W. Cox, Executive Director  
Lewis F. Dinkins  
Terry Allen  
Steve Fox

### Organization

Responding to the Vice President's request the city of Atlanta; at the request of Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., established the Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity. Out of this Council came subcommittees to deal with the problems. These are:

1. Employment - Mr. Charles Storm, Lockheed Corp., Georgia
2. Recreation - Mr. Harry Helton, YMCA
3. Education - Mrs. Betty Cantor, B'nai B'rith
4. Publicity - Miss Ann Cobb, Shell Oil Company
5. Special Events - Mr. Steve Fox

The effectiveness of these committees as well as the entire Youth Opportunity Program may be found under separate cover, 1968 Youth Opportunity Report to the City of Atlanta.

**APPENDIX**

AGENCIES and ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING PLANNING - COORDINATION ASSISTANCE TO THE MAYOR'S  
COUNCIL on YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agencies

Federal Executive Board  
Defense Department  
Labor Department  
Housing and Urban Development  
Health, Education and Welfare  
Interior Department  
Commerce Department  
Department of Justice (CRS)  
Agriculture  
OEO  
Civil Service Commission

County

Fulton County Commissioners  
Fulton County Department of Family  
and Children Services  
Fulton County Schools  
Fulton County Juvenile Court  
Fulton County Child Guidance  
DeKalb County Schools  
DeKalb County Juvenile Court

Other Public Agencies

Economic Opportunity of Atlanta  
Atlanta Board of Education  
Atlanta Housing Authority  
Clayton County Board of Education  
Decatur Public Schools

Private Non-Profit Health, Education  
and Welfare Agencies

Community Chest - United Appeal  
Community Council of Atlanta  
Atlanta Mental Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
Anti-Defamation League  
Camp Fire Girls  
Atlanta Employment Evaluation Services  
Centers  
Legal Aid Society  
Atlanta University School of Social  
Work  
Atlanta Urban League  
Bethlehem Wesley Community Centers  
Big Brothers Association of Atlanta  
Grady Homes Community Girls Clubs

State Agencies

Office of the Governor  
Defense  
Family and Children Services  
Education  
Health  
Governor Commission on Crime and  
Justice  
Arts Commission  
Recreation Commission  
University of Georgia  
Georgia State College  
Mental Health Institute  
Georgia Department of Labor  
Scholarship and Loan Commission  
State Library Board

City of Atlanta

Office of the Mayor  
Planning Department  
Personnel  
Public Works Department  
Recreation and Parks  
Children and Youth Services  
Comptroller  
City Service Coordination  
Community Relations Commission  
Police Department  
Atlanta Public Library

Private Non-Profit Health, Education  
and Welfare Agencies cont'd

Atlanta University Multi-Purpose  
Training Center  
Cancer Society of Atlanta  
Georgia Heart Association  
Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission  
Goodwill Industry  
Boys Club, Inc. of Atlanta  
Butler Street YMCA  
Camp Fire Girls, Inc.  
Carrie Steele-Pitts Homes  
Catholic Social Services of Atlanta  
Children Center of Metropolitan Atlanta  
Greater Atlanta Committee on Crime and  
Delinquency  
Kirkwood Christian Center

Private Non-Profit Health, Education  
and Welfare Agencies cont'd

National Youth Courtesy Foundations  
Paul Anderson Youth Home  
Planned Parenthood Association  
of Atlanta  
Emory University  
Metropolitan YMCA  
Metropolitan YWCA  
Travelers Aid Society of Atlanta  
Women in Community Services  
St. Vicent de Paul Society  
Salvation Army

Religious

Metropolitan Council of Churches  
AME Ministers Union  
Inter-Demcminational Ministerial  
Alliance  
Baptist Ministers Union  
Atlanta Archdioces  
Georgia Council of Churches

Business, Civil Right Services and Ed-  
ucational Groups

Atlanta Chamber of Commerce  
Merit Employers Association  
Retail Wholesale Merchants Associa-  
tion  
Frontier Club  
National Congress of Colored Parents  
and Teachers  
National Conference of Christian and  
Jews  
Atlanta Bar Association  
Optimist Club of Atlanta  
Y's Club Butler Street YMCA  
Rotary Club of Atlanta  
Kiwanis Club  
Jr. League  
Emory University  
Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Atlanta Traffic and Safety Council  
Council of Jewish Women  
Apartment Owners Association  
NAACP  
Metropolitan Commission on Crime and  
Delinquency  
Georgia Labor Council AFL-CIO