

## WACO, TEXAS

Some 15,000 people, or 14 percent of the population live in the Waco model neighborhood, with about two-thirds Negro and one-third white and Mexican-American. The unemployment rate in the target area is three times the rest of the city, while 63 percent of the housing is considered substandard. About 50 percent of the adults have less than a high school education, and about 40 percent of the families earn less than \$3,000.

### Citizen Participation

Developing Waco's five year program involved nine task forces working closely with six model neighborhood citizen boards, independent organizations, volunteer groups and city, State and Federal agencies.

More than 500 citizens participated in planning the Waco program. More than 400 meetings were held with model neighborhood residents and task force planning committees.

City Demonstration Agency staff comprising three professionals and seven persons assigned from local organizations worked closely with a Model Cities Commission and Model Neighborhood Boards to develop the final plan submitted to City Council.

### Five Year Program

Waco's five year program is aimed at correcting the physical blight in the area while improving its social and educational conditions. To accomplish this, Waco seeks to involve private enterprise and public support. The major elements of the program are directed at improving housing through the construction of 400 new units by private enterprise and non-profit corporations, while up-grading resident employment and training opportunities. The model neighborhood residents gave first priority to improving drainage facilities and street conditions in the area. The second priority is in education, and calls for curriculum development and improving educational opportunities for pre-school children.

Other program elements include improving medical and social services with full emphasis on developing training opportunities in pre-professional positions for residents by coordination with city, county, and State non-profit organizations. A new health and extended medical services program has been designed.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Employment

The Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) will be used to help reduce an unemployment rate of 9 percent for men and 7 percent for women. Other work-training programs will provide residents

with an opportunity to participate in developing businesses. Planned for the future is a Work Skills Development program operated by James Connally Technical Institute which will provide vocational as well as academic training for entire families who will live on the campus.

During the first year, CEP activities will include a New Careers program, adult basic education, vocational and technical training and on-the-job training.

### Education

The basic program approach in education is to develop a comprehensive pre-school educational program and expand vocational technical training. The curriculum of the model neighborhood schools will be reformed through the use of computer assisted instructional programs and Instructional Media Resources Centers. A communication mobile unit in the target area will help students with learning problems by providing aid in such basic skills as reading, writing, and speech.

Several programs are proposed for upgrading teacher skills, including an instructional laboratory for training teachers to work with disadvantaged children. A Cross-Over Program to help teachers recognize the social and educational problems of students involved in desegregation would be expanded. Also planned is an Experienced Teacher Fellowship Program at Baylor University offering university courses to 30 teachers to increase their skills needed to teach the disadvantaged.

During the first year computer terminals will be installed in three area schools to carry out the instructional program. An Occupational Skills Analysis Laboratory which will provide special instruction through video tapes, will also be started.

### Social Services

Social services programs are directed principally at coordinating services of numerous social agencies and in improving their accessibility to residents. The social services component will also deal with developing welfare aid and employment opportunities within its services.

A Foster Grandparent program and a nutritional program will serve the elderly. Other first year activities include a Home-maker Service for the elderly and disabled, and an Extensive Counselling Program for young women and husbands of planned parent-hood clients.

### Health

The principal health components include health care for the elderly, visiting nurses services in the home, and extending family planning services. The Medical Society will help develop

a continuity of care concept through a medical education program. This program is intended to bring about better coordination of all health programs and providing medical training opportunities for model neighborhood residents.

A Family Physician Program will reorganize and coordinate health services and recruit doctors to Waco and to staff model neighborhood facilities. Also included in the plan are a Detoxification Center for Alcoholics and Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services.

During the first year, construction of the Mental Health facility will begin. Two school health programs focusing on medical examinations for model neighborhood students and Health, Sex, and Drug Education will also start immediately.

#### Law Enforcement

Juvenile services and improved police community relations are emphasized in this component. Specific first year activities include a Police Science Library to supplement an existing degree program for law enforcement officers and expansion of a Juvenile Police Bureau to initiate a delinquency prevention program.

#### Recreation

The recreation program calls for community centers and developing programs in crafts and cultural enrichment. Model neighborhood residents will be employed in the program. Plans also call for developing recreation facilities on the Brazos River which runs through the model neighborhood.

#### Physical Planning Areas

This component of the Waco program is aimed at up-grading existing physical conditions such as streets, housing and community facilities and providing new facilities where needed. Three elements are emphasized -- urban design, housing, and public facilities.

The goal of the urban design component is proper land use, including commercial, industrial and housing facilities, and a transportation system meeting the needs of the model neighborhood residents.

An Urban Design Center is proposed to bridge the gaps in design, as well as provide technical assistance to model neighborhood residents involved in this phase of the program. The center will feature visual aids which will show existing physical conditions in the area as well as project future goals and concepts

to be achieved in the Model Cities program. Waco proposes to use the new Neighborhood Development Program for physical renewal of the target area. The goal of the housing component is suitable new and rehabilitated standard housing for all model neighborhood residents at prices they can afford. Some 400 new housing units through public and private resources are proposed.

First year activities include street construction, a sanitary sewer project, construction of drainage systems, a coordinated code enforcement project and a study of user needs for low-income housing in the model neighborhood. Also planned is a Resident Homebuilder project which would combine construction of 14 new homes with training a minority resident to establish a homebuilding firm.