

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AIDE PROJECT

(RODENT CONTROL)

OBJECTIVES

The basic objectives of this project are:

1. To significantly reduce rodent infestation in the City of Atlanta;
2. To eliminate or reduce the incidence of health and safety hazards and economic loss caused by the activities of rats;
3. To develop an effective citizen government-involved program for creating and maintaining a healthy and sanitary environmental condition free of rodent infestation;
4. To coordinate the services of all relevant agencies in a concentrated effort to improve community conditions.
5. To aid and assist the City of Atlanta in providing more relevant and consistent services for its citizens;
6. To provide meaningful work experience, training and education for poor youth and adults.

EVALUATION

An evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of this project will be undertaken to measure the degree to which the project objectives are being attained.

I. Reduction of Rodent Infestation will be measured by the use of "before and after surveys" of the target areas. Specific items to be observed will include the reduction of:

- A. Rat Droppings;
- B. Rat Burrows;
- C. Rat Holes;
- D. Harborages;
- E. Rat Trails;
- F. Physical Presence;
- G. Gnawings.

In addition, "before and after surveys" will be made of areas adjacent to the target areas for comparative analysis.

Other items to be included in this survey will be:

- A. Number of structures needing repair;
- B. Number of structures needing to be demolished;
- C. Regularity of garbage and trash collection;
- D. Degree of active code enforcement.

Follow-up surveys will be made of the target areas on a biweekly basis to determine the degree to which they are being maintained.

II. Reduction of the Incidence of Health and Safety Hazards and Economic Loss will be evaluated by comparing data gathered before, during, and after the project. These will include:

- A. Incidence of rat-related illnesses;
- B. Incidence of reported or known rat-bite cases;
- C. Incidence of property destruction caused by rats.

III. The Citizen-Governmental Involvement Program will be evaluated by:

- A. Comparing citizens' complaints before, during, and after the project; (This will include adjacent areas, as well as the target areas.)
- B. Studying the response to and effective handling of complaints within these areas;
- C. Describing and analyzing the nature of meetings and discussions concerning the rodent problem; (This will be done whenever meetings of this type occur.)

- D. Assessing the changes in quality and quantity of cooperative programs between citizens and government concerning the rodent problem;
- E. Measuring the progress or retrogression of participation in this program by:
 - 1. Adults;
 - 2. Youth;
 - 3. Government;
 - 4. Owner;
 - 5. Non-Owner.
- F. Measuring the quality of the structural improvements made before, during, and after this project.

IV. Assisting the City of Atlanta and Other Governmental Agencies in Establishing More Relevant and Effective Services in Rodent Control and Environmental Sanitation will be evaluated by determining the degree to which the City and other Governmental agencies are meeting the sanitation needs of the target areas. Based upon these findings, experimental programs will be undertaken in which new techniques will be utilized to improve the following conditions:

- A. Garbage Collection;
- B. Code Enforcement;
- C. Community Clean-Up;
- D. Manpower Utilization

The cost of these experiments will be compared, and the most economical and efficient services will be recommended for adoption.

V. Providing Meaningful Work Experience, Training and Education for Poor Youth and Adults will be evaluated by determining:

- A. Number of poor youth and adults recruited for this project;
- B. Number of poor youth and adults trained for this project;
- C. Comparing the above with the actual number of poor youth and adults hired and retained by this project.

VI. Other Evaluative Activities of this Project will be:

- A. The administration of simple attitude tests to community residents to determine the degree of interest in community sanitation and rodent control.
- B. Assessing new occupational knowledge and outlook of youth to determine the degree of new interest in health as a vocation.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

The problem of rodent infestation is serious in Atlanta. The magnitude of the problem is underscored by the fact that while there are many Federal, State, Local and Private agencies involved in some way in rat control programs, there is no overall coordination of these activities; nor is there presently a single agency applying a completely concerted effort in this area.

In Atlanta there were 42 reported rat-bite cases in 1965. In 1966 there were 51, and in 1967 there were 91. These figures represent a 120 per cent increase between 1965 and 1967. In 1967, 74, or 81 per cent of the total reported rat-bite cases occurred in bed during early evening hours. The 1967 total would equal 94 if multiple bites are considered.

Many conditions exist in the most densely-populated areas of Atlanta which tend to encourage rodent infestation. Some of these are:

1. Dilapidated Housing; *
2. Long-Standing Trash Piles;
3. Excessive and Uncollected Garbage;
4. A Large Number of Junk Automobiles;
5. Trash-Covered Vacant Lots;
6. Stacks of Old Lumber and Wood Piles;
7. Old Tires;
8. Unkept Ditches and Other Water Areas;
9. Community Apathy

In addition to the conditions mentioned above, Urban Renewal Projects have contributed to the increased rodent infestation of Atlanta's slum areas. The removal of old houses and other structures for the building of stadiums, expressways, and businesses have caused rats to re-concentrate in already-infested areas. The problem has become acute in recent years.

The disease problems associated with rodent infestation are held relatively low in Atlanta; however, the threat of rat-borne disease is ever present when rat infestation is manifested to the degree presently estimated in Atlanta. It is estimated that there are as many rats as there are people in Atlanta. This problem becomes serious when 30 per cent of Atlanta's population is in the most frequent contact with the majority of Atlanta's rats.

Untold damage of a psychological nature results from the rat menace, especially in urban areas. More than 14,000 Americans are bitten by rats each year. ** Those who live in close proximity to rats are known to experience both physical and psychological damage that is injurious to the entire sociological environment of a community. The adverse effects of this damage manifest itself in a variety

* A chart of housing and population characteristics of the target areas is on page 11 and page 12.

** Introduction to the Report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorder.

of ways. It leads to lower levels of income, education, sanitation and housekeeping. It reinforces community apathy and lack of pride. It remains a constant source of grievances and complaints. It leads to higher levels of disease, crime, unemployment and urban unrest.

The technical know-how and professional services available to control rats need augmenting in Atlanta. There is a need for more acceptance, and concentrated application and coordination of these forces through government agencies and other groups having responsibilities for urban development and community health.

TARGET AREAS

The Target Areas selected for this project are:

1. The Model Cities Area;
2. The Multi-Purpose Service Center Area;
3. The Parent-Child Service Center Area;
4. The Areas Covered by the President's Youth Opportunity Program.

Within each of these areas, specific census tracts, neighborhoods, population, structural characteristics, and land area by acres are listed as follows:

CENSUS TRACT	NEIGHBORHOOD	LAND AREA BY ACRES	TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES	NUMBER OF MAJOR STRUCTURAL DETERIORATION	POPULATION
F-87 and F-88	Riverside Chattahoochie Bolton Hill Park Scotts Crossing	4,267	1,916	204	13,754
F-86	Watts Road Carey Park Perry Homes - Rockdale	2,194	1,974	165	10,088
F-83	Center Hill	1,077	1,385	19	11,207
F-84	Grove Park	424	1,262	40	7,253
F-40	Dixie Hills	395	1,377	63	3,986
F-24	Hunter Hills	324	1,311	39	7,704
F-7	Blandtown	430	225	39	2,422
F-8	Bellwood	237	798	133	5,154
F-9	Home Park	176	569	18	2,042
F-10	Georgia Tech	405	1,245	252	4,792
F-22	English Avenue	215	1,560	671	4,995
F-25	Western Avenue	208	1,171	130	7,704
F-38	Vine City	198	1,560	671	5,118
F-40	Mozley Park	395	1,394	17	3,986
	Uptown	260	1,472	39	4,974
F-17	Glen Iris	296	1,582	601	6,884
F-28	Edgewood	181	2,152	352	3,462
D-5 and D-6	Kirkwood	676	1,783	99	11,461
F-33	Cabbagetown	176	2,161	751	5,025
	Reynoldstown	176	2,161	751	5,025
F-44	Mechanicsville	219	1,748	791	4,348
F-46	Summerhill	130	1,566	993	3,597
F-45	Grant Park	163	1,814	389	1,961
F-55A	Peopletown	289	593	91	6,518
F-63	Pittsburg	359	1,967	873	5,253
F-58	Adair Park	300	732	35	2,178
F-60	Oakland City	376	3,192	99	4,415
F-23	Goldsmith	265	389	85	6,479

CENSUS TRACT	NEIGHBORHOOD	LAND AREA BY ACRES	TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES	NUMBER OF MAJOR STRUCTURAL DETERIORATION	POPULATION
F-63	Capital View	359	989	14	5,253
F-55B	High Point - Joyland	412	588	28	6,761
F-67	South Atlanta	853	809	240	8,175
F-57	Stewart Avenue	155	115	25	3,336
TOTAL		16,414	41,399	7,966	180,285

PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

The preliminary procedures to be implemented will occur as follows:

1. May 27 - June 6, 1968 --- Recruitment and assembly of professional and other crucial staff personnel;
2. June 10 - June 17, 1968 --- Recruitment of aides;
3. June 19 - June 28, 1968 --- Training and assigning of aide staff;
4. July 1, 1968 --- Implementation of work program;
5. May 27, 1971 --- Project termination.

The professional staff to be recruited will be as follows:

1. One (1) Project Director;
2. One (1) Rodent Control Specialist;
3. One (1) Project Evaluator;
4. Three (3) Community Health Specialists;
5. Five (5) Community Organizers.

During the same period, other crucial personnel to be recruited will be:

5. One (1) Budget and Fiscal Officer;
6. One (1) Clerk;
7. Two (2) Secretaries;
8. Two (2) Housing Inspectors;
9. Six (6) Sanitary Supervisors;
10. Six (6) Crew Chiefs.

The implementation of the Aide Program will begin with recruiting indigenous poor youth and adults needing employment; screening and assessing capacities of poor youth and adults; on basis of capacities, designing, providing and/or securing educational and training supplements needed; and guiding and channeling youth during on-the-job training in this project.

In addition, the Veterans' Administration will be requested to refer any returning veteran to this program for immediate employment.

The training of youth will consist of the following subjects:

1. Evaluation of rodent infestation in terms of
 - A. Droppings
 - B. Burrows
 - C. Physical Presence
 - D. Gnawings

2. Evaluation of health problems caused by rats in terms of
 - A. Reported rat-bite cases;
 - B. Reported rat-related illnesses.
3. Community organization techniques, including
 - A. Meeting and greeting people;
 - B. Clearly explaining this program's goals;
 - C. Organizing and conducting community meetings on the subject.
4. Vector Control techniques, including
 - A. Poisoning;
 - B. Rat-proofing structures;
 - C. Baiting and cleaning public properties.
5. Other subjects to be taught will be slide-projector operation, movie projector operation, building inspection and demolition.

Upon completion of this training, these youth and adults will be assigned in crews to work with health and sanitary officials. They will

1. Make rodent surveys;
2. Distribute information about their control;
3. Organize and conduct community meetings on the subject;
4. Assist neighbors in clean-up efforts;
5. Put garbage and debris on trucks;
6. Assist the city in dealing with complaints;
7. Bait and clean public properties;
8. Assist inspectors in their duties;
9. Assist persons in rat-proofing their homes.

A crew will consist of the following personnel:

1. One (1) Community Organizer and Aides;
2. One (1) Sanitary Supervisor and Aides;
3. One (1) Rodent Control Specialist and Aides;
4. One (1) Housing Code Specialist and Aides;
5. One (1) Health Educator and Aides

METHODS OF PROCEDURES

I. To Significantly Reduce Rodent-Infestation in the City of Atlanta

This reduction will be achieved by:

- A. Organizing communities, by community organizers and aides, for community clean-up programs in which aides will assist community residents in cleaning up outside homes, and removing yard and street debris, i. e. paper, garbage, trash piles, junk automobiles, tires and dirt;
- B. Cooperating directly with Economic Opportunity Atlanta's clean-up campaign and extending this effort to a year-round project by increasing personnel, providing technical associates, and organizing clean-up committees on a neighborhood basis;
- C. Cooperating directly with the Model Cities Program in implementing a demolition program, using youth and adult aides and youth demolition enterprises on a contract basis, to identify and demolish, with the owner's consent, all vacant houses, wood sheds and other structures which the preliminary survey indicated were rat harborages;
- D. Initiating a rat-proofing program using youth and adult aides, under the supervision of Rodent Control and Housing Specialists, to rat-proof basements and storage places, and to teach community residents proper garbage disposal methods.
- E. Formulating and implementing a comprehensive pre-poisoning and poisoning program. Pre-poisoning will consist of dusting trails, burrows, harborages and similar places as precautionary measures against ectoparasites and disease when deemed necessary. Poisoning will be initiated and supervised by technical and trained personnel. The poisons to be used will be:
 1. Red Squill - Fortified (500 Mgs. per Kg.)
 2. Anticoagulants

The baits to be used will be:

1. Yellow cornmeal;
2. Canned fish;
3. Dark molasses

The selection of bait and/or poisons to be used will be determined by the environmental factors and the degree of infestation. The degree of infestation will be determined by evaluation, and it will be designated as light, medium or heavy. Generally, poisons will be distributed at an average rate of two pounds per premise. Baiting will be done when deemed necessary by health, sanitary and rodent control experts.

F. Alerting code enforcement officials to conditions which harborage rats, and aggressively pursuing policies aimed at eliminating such conditions.

II. To Eliminate or Reduce the Incidence of Health and Safety Hazards and Economic Loss Caused by the Activities of Rats

This elimination or reduction will be achieved by:

- A. Operating a program of community education in rat-infested areas in which health educators and youth and adult aides will conduct classes in the community, teaching residents precautionary measures needed to reduce rat-bite incidence;
- B. Showing movies and slides operated by youth aides depicting how rats bite people, especially when they go to bed without washing after having eaten certain foods, i. e. jelly, candy, etc.;
- C. Distributing weekly written material reminding residents that unwrapped or uncovered food attracts rats.

III. To Develop an Effective Citizen -- Government-Involved Program for Creating and Maintaining a Healthy and Sanitary Environmental Condition Free of Rodent Infestation

These conditions will be achieved by:

- A. Organizing grievance committees to accept and refer grievances to proper governmental departments;
- B. Improvising a standard grievance form for rodent-related grievances;
- C. Investigating and validating grievances by youth and adult aides;
- D. Conducting classes at which health, housing and code enforcement officials and their aides will teach residents sanitary laws, code enforcement laws, and legal means available for gaining improved sanitary and code enforcement services;
- E. Distributing information concerning garbage collection schedules so that residents will have their garbage ready for collection.

IV. To Aid and Assist the City of Atlanta in Providing more Relevant and Consistent Services for its Citizens

This objective will be achieved by:

- A. Providing the City with feeders of information as to the quality and quantity of its services in the target areas;
- B. Involving participating agencies in a program designed to show the need for new ordinances and legislation in this area.

These goals will be achieved by health and sanitation officials and staff who are specialists in environmental health and sanitation.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Each participating agency will develop and provide service within its own competence that are relevant to the objectives of this project. The coordination of each service to all others will be designed and refined by a continuous process of cooperative exploration and evaluation.

The agencies participating in this project are:

1. The Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council;
2. The City of Atlanta Sanitation Department;
3. The Fulton County Health Department;
4. The City of Atlanta Housing Department;
5. The Office of the City Services Coordinator;
6. The City Planning Department (Model Cities);
7. Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.;
8. United Appeal;
9. The Georgia Department of Health;
10. The Georgia Department of Labor.

Participation of these agencies will provide an opportunity to demonstrate and test services; orient, train, and develop poor youth to staff capacity; participate in the development and coordination of services into a comprehensive rodent control program; and determine the value of demonstration services and coordination of resources.

- A. The Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council will be the prime contractor for this project. The council is an official agency of the City of Atlanta and has coordinating responsibilities for children and youth services and work throughout the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

The council will carry out the initial responsibilities for:

1. Developing the proposal;
2. Sub-contracting;
3. Overall coordination of services;
4. Evaluation and research;
5. Monitoring and auditing

- B. The Atlanta Sanitation Department will co-sponsor this project and will be responsible for garbage collection and disposal. It will train sanitary supervisors concerning sanitary problems in Atlanta.

- C. The Fulton County Health Department will request work crews and crew chiefs for rat control work. The health department will be responsible for training the requested crews in their areas of competence concerning the health-related aspects of rat-borne diseases, rat habits, and rat poisons. It will also provide advice to the Rat Control Project in developing methods and procedures for the surveys and poisoning programs.

- D. The City Planning Department (Model Cities) will identify target areas, furnish useful ecological and demographic data, and furnish maps.
- E. Economic Opportunity Atlanta and the United Appeal will assist in the community organization and the community involvement aspects of this project. They will identify indigenous youth and adult leaders crucial to community organization efforts.
- F. The City Services Coordinator will be responsible for the facilitating, expediting and coordinating of the various City and County services, including Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. He will also be responsible for supervising the operation of neighborhood rodent-control crews in their day-to-day operation.
- G. The Georgia Department of Health will provide technical assistance and consultation services to the various agencies participating in this project.
- H. The Georgia Department of Labor will refer indigenous youth, veterans, and unemployed adults to this project for employment. They will also provide limited training under their Manpower Development and Training Program.
- I. The Atlanta Housing Authority will assist in training housing inspectors and code enforcement aides.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The facilities available for this project are numerous. This project will utilize Neighborhood Service Centers, Community Meeting and Recreation Buildings, classroom space in schools located in the area, and storage facilities within the target area.

The headquarters for the project will be in a designated facility of the City.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROJECT

The significance of this project is numerous. The most important significance is the concentration of community resources and services to correct serious health, sanitary, and socially disruptive problems in communities. Another important significance of this project will be the large number of youth and young adults that will be employed. Other significant contributions of this project will be:

- A. Providing youth and adults with meaningful training for future job possibilities;
- B. Employing returning veterans;
- C. Improving the image of City Government in low-income communities.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The staffing of this project will be an integral part of programming and implementation. While these will be the necessary professional staff, this project will draw a major portion of its staff from the target areas. The emphasis will be upon the hiring of poor youth, unemployed adults, and veterans.

A. Director

Qualifications: A minimum of a Master's Degree in Community Organization, plus a minimum of five years experience as an Administrator, preferably at the executive level;

Responsibilities: Administration and overall operation of the project, coordination, policies, sub-contracts, budget, public relations;

B. Vector Control Specialist

Qualifications: A minimum of a Master's Degree in Environmental Health, plus five years of experience in rodent control;

Responsibilities: Providing overall direction to the technical aspect of this project, supervising, training, assessing needs of project to operate more effectively;

C. Operations Officer

Qualifications: A minimum of a Master's Degree in Biology, plus two years of teaching experience;

Responsibilities: Directing and guiding the various component programs, personnel supervision, reports, public relations, training aides;

D. Evaluation Officer

Qualifications: Extensive graduate training in research and evaluation, plus one year of experience in evaluation research, preferably at senior staff level;

Responsibilities: Designing and implementing evaluation procedure, administering tests, training aides;

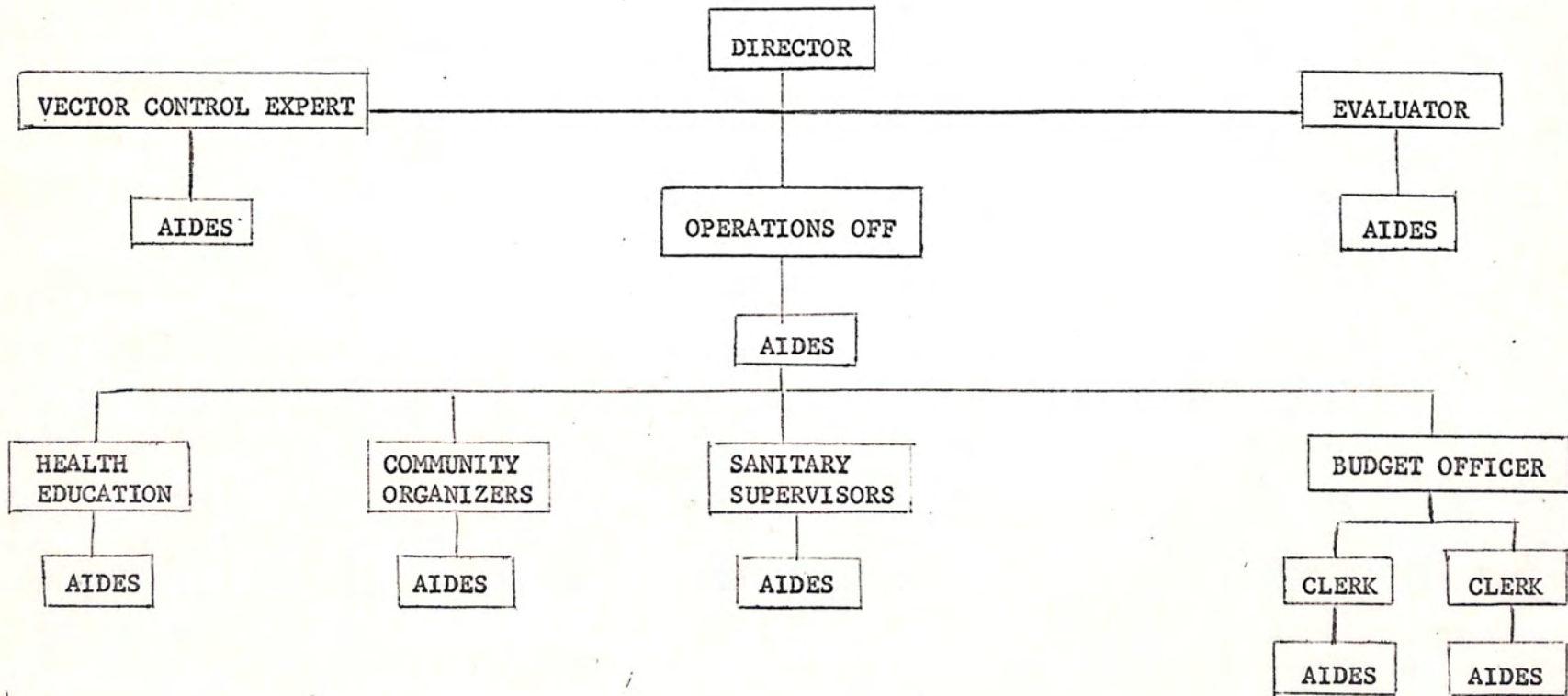
E. Community Organizer

Qualifications: A minimum of a Master's Degree in Community Organization;

Responsibilities: Planning meetings, organizing communities, assessing community attitudes, training aide staff;

A chart of the staff structure is outlined on the following page.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF RODENT CONTROL PROJECT



PROJECT TITLE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AIDE PROJECT (RODENT CONTROL)

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Not to exceed 200 words)

This project has been designed to provide needed services in the area of environmental health. It provides for the educating and hiring of community residents in efforts to improve their living conditions. It is designed to coordinate all related services to a rat control project. It cooperates with Federal, State and local governmental agencies, as well as other groups, for the expressed purpose of eliminating a disruptive community problem. It provides for the training of some persons which may develop into new careers for previously unemployed persons. Finally, it provides for a constant and reliable built-in evaluation wherein the overall and day-to-day effectiveness of the total program is determined and analyzed. All data received will be fed back to program operators for the purpose of having the appropriate adjustments facilitated.

NAME OF PROJECT DIRECTOR

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION (Name and address, including Zip Code)

TYPICAL RAT-INFESTED DWELLING

