

CDGM CHILD DEVELOPMENT GROUP of MISSISSIPPI

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FACT SHEET

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Chairman
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The Child Development Group of Mississippi is a statewide Head Start program which was organized in the summer of 1965. It is currently concluding operation under its second grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

On August 25, 1966, CDGM submitted a proposal to OEO for funding for an additional year's operation. That proposal requests \$20.3 million to serve 13,500 children in 170 centers in 37 counties throughout Mississippi.

This sum falls far below the needs of the poor community and considerably under an original request for \$41 million which OEO rejected outright.

More than 16,500 children who applied for inclusion in the new program were rejected by us with great reluctance.

The new proposal is a statement of the minimum needs of the poorest people in the poorest state in the nation.

The following are relevant facts about CDGM's current program.

Basic Data

- Size of present grant: \$5,644,343 for 6 months of operation
- Number of children served: 12,145 (as of June 3, 1966)
- Geographical coverage: 121 centers in 28 counties across the state

Who Works for CDGM

- Number of employees: 2,272 employees on payroll of which 2112 are on local center staffs, 80 work in 15 area offices, and 62 work in the central office
- Composition: 98.9% of CDGM employees are local Mississippians (99+% in the local centers, 100% in the area offices, 80% in the central office)

Training

- In its commitment to the elimination of the root causes of

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poverty, CDGM has attempted to employ poor people and provide them with new skills through which they can realize their full potential. Extensive opportunities for training were provided our staff at all levels, including:

- Training of area social service co-ordinators: 162 hrs/person
- Training of area administrators by central staff and outside consultants: 162 hrs/person in workshops
- Training in systematic problem solving by Transolve, Inc, for area staff: 24-36 hrs/person
- for eight selected area staff (who now conduct their own workshops): 80 hrs/person
- for center co-ordinators: 24 hrs/person
- for each community committee: 16 hrs/person
- Training, instate, through workshops and consultants for area and local teaching personnel: 55,348 man hours
- OEO sponsored teacher training courses in colleges and universities
- 189 teachers for eight weeks/person
- 4 area teacher guides at a high level, six week training course at Peabody Institute, Nashville
- 15 teachers at a one week training course at the University of Southern Mississippi

Opportunities for Decision-Making

A total of 1,006 people, virtually all of them poor, were accorded the opportunity to make decisions directly affecting their own lives and the operation of CDGM centers.

- Serving on community committees (121): 945 persons
- Serving on area councils: 44 persons
- Serving on the CDGM board of directors: 17 persons

Volunteer Work

There are 49 centers, operating on an entirely voluntary basis, serving 4,365 children, which call themselves CDGM. They receive no funds from CDGM or the government, yet they constitute one of the largest Head Start programs in the country.

CDGM has far exceeded the 10% non-federal share which poverty agencies are required to meet through local funds or voluntary contributions. As of July 8, 1966, with more than 2 months before the program ends, CDGM staff contributed more than 380,000 hours of voluntary labor at a computed dollar value of \$605,641.

Miscellaneous Data

-CDGM's cost per child per week is \$19., considerably under national OEO guidelines and other Head Start programs in the state of Mississippi.

-The 12,147 children served by CDGM represent only 7% of the eligible children who could be getting a Head Start education.

-A random sampling of 150 CDGM resource teachers, who receive \$75 a week average, indicates that their average wages prior to working with CDGM were \$44/week.