

3. Economic Development

- a. *Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)*: This is a program that encourages recipients to seek employment through improved education and training. A study of 158 students who had attended college in New York before the introduction of the program showed that almost 80% had been employed since graduation, and of these, almost 50% were earning over \$20,000 per annum. In addition, while 62% were receiving welfare the year before entering college, only 17% were receiving it after graduation. Related studies conducted in five other states after introduction of the JOBS program revealed similar findings, with employment rates of 66-91% and slightly higher rates for those attending four-year colleges.

For more information, see:

Kates, E. (1996). Educational pathways out of poverty: Responding to the realities of women's lives. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 66 (4), 548-556.

Vosler, N.R. & Ozawa, M.N. (1992). A multilevel social systems practice model for working with AFDC JOBS program clients. *The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 18, 3-13.

- b. *Pacoima Urban Village*: This program operates in a densely populated section of Pacoima, CA that includes over half of its population of over 60,000. The "village" is the focus of a socio-economic development strategy to help the community become financially independent and self-sufficient. It uses a number of strategies to fulfill its vision. These are designed to help villagers prepare to be competitive in the workforce, find jobs, and develop strong social and community interconnections. There also is a focus on improving the safety and appearance of each block within the village, helping businesses within the village to expand and become more financially lucrative, and helping new businesses develop. The village's Job Connection program, designed to match those looking for jobs with the job needs of employers, has been instrumental in helping over 130 villagers either find jobs or help them find the jobs themselves. The Job Connection program has registered over 800 villagers and has become a focal point for villagers looking for ways to work together and help each other.

For more information, contact:

Pacoima Urban Village, 13330 Vaughn St., Pacoima, CA 91340, (818) 834-1498, Fax: (818) 834-1492.

- c. *Job Corps*: This is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program for at-risk youth, ages 16 through 24. Since 1964, it has provided more than 1.7 million young people with the integrated academic, vocational, and social skills training they need to gain independence and get quality, long-term jobs or further their education. It is a public-private partnership administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that has benefits for disadvantaged youth who attend the program, the communities where centers are located, and the employers and educators. Reports indicate that more than 75% of those who enroll in Job Corps become employed, obtain further training, or join the military. For young people who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are high school dropouts, or read at an elementary school level, Job Corps offers an opportunities to become productive members of society. Those who complete training have the greatest chance of getting a better job and a higher wage.

For more information, contact:

Job Corps: 1-800-733-JOBS (1-800-733-5627), or visit their website at www.jobcorps.org.

Appendix F: Community Outreach for Involvement & Support

- d. *Annie E. Casey Foundation's Rebuilding Communities Initiative (RCI)*: As described by the Foundation, "This, a seven-year initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is designed to provide the supports needed to help transform troubled economically disenfranchised neighborhoods into safe, supportive, and productive environments for children, youth, and their families. The Foundation works in partnership with community-based organizations on comprehensive strategies to reverse social isolation and disinvestment in low-income neighborhoods. The RCI objectives are: (1) Maximizing the capacity and impact of neighborhood resources and institutions; (2) Establishing effective neighborhood-based human service delivery systems for children, youth and families; (3) Developing capable and effective neighborhood collaboratives to which governance authority could gradually be devolved; (4) Improving availability of affordable housing and improving the social and physical infrastructure of the neighborhoods; and (5) Increasing public and private capital investments in the neighborhoods.

Five communities were funded in 1994 as RCI sites. The lead organization for the rebuilding effort in each of the communities is the Foundation's grantee. They are:

- >The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (Boston, MA) for the Dudley Street Neighborhood in Roxbury, Boston.
- >Germantown Settlement (Philadelphia, PA) for the Wister, Southwest Germantown, and Chew-Cheltenham neighborhoods in Germantown, Philadelphia.
- >Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (Washington, D.C.) for neighborhoods in Ward 7 in Washington, D.C.
- >NEWSED Community Development Corporation (Denver, CO) for the La Alma/Lincoln Park neighborhood in West Denver.
- >Warren/Conner Development Coalition (Detroit, MI) for neighborhoods in the Eastside of Detroit.

Participating RCI communities are eligible for grants for three phases of the initiative. The first phase of RCI was a planning phase. The result of the twenty-one month planning process was a neighborhood consensus on a community building plan, and a framework for implementing agreed upon reforms, programs, and development projects over the course of the initiative. The second, and current, phase of the initiative is the three-year capacity building phase. The capacity building phase is intended to enable neighborhood leaders, institutions, and residents to: develop the skills and experience; build the partnerships; develop and refine the program interventions; and attract the investments needed to actualize the community transformation that they envision. The final three-year phase of the initiative will be the demonstration phase. Those organizations that are funded for this phase will refine and demonstrate exemplary neighborhood capacity in one or more of the RCI critical elements contained in their community building plans.

In all five of the local communities, our grantee has succeeded in establishing an environment where collaboration and integrated approaches to family-centered community revitalization are understood and highly valued by residents, other community organizations, local government, and others involved in the initiative. Each of the sites has completed a community-driven comprehensive community building plan and is making varying degrees of progress to develop the capacity to implement the plans. We have completed the first year of the three-year capacity building phase. A number of observations may be useful to illustrate the current progress and impact of the initiative, as well as provide insights about the nature of the community change process. At each site, a local neighborhood governance collaborative has been fully established and has given greater cohesion and an increased sense of comprehensiveness to the work of local initiatives. Each grantee has been able to establish forward moving momentum around the initiative and, as a result, is totally committed to successfully implementing the community building plan. The five communities have used this phase of the initiative to begin building and demonstrating capacity to advance their community building plans through organizational development, community research, leadership development, partnership building, and planning for improved services and development projects. They have engaged a broad cross-section of community stakeholders in these activities, thereby establishing shared ownership and a reservoir of good will. All of the lead organizations are planning for neighborhood-based human services delivery systems with full involvement of neighborhood residents, and particularly those residents who depend on the services as vital supports to reconnect with jobs and other forms of productive community life. The efforts of grantees at each site are leading to increased physical and social infrastructure improvements. In some instances, construction of new housing units are expanding the overall inventory of affordable housing. In other instances, joint efforts are underway with local government to restore and retain affordable units for lower income families through

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extensive rehabilitation of the existing stock. Additional resources are also being brought into the neighborhood to help young families purchase their first home. In all of the communities, social networks are being strengthened through the intensive focus on new roles in community planning for neighborhood associations, religious, youth and civic groups. The communities have been able to attract capital investments to enhance the neighborhood revitalization. In some instances, new capital investments were made in the form of increased private lending for home buying and small business development, which will, in turn, create new job opportunities for residents. At one site, a new intermediary is being created to seek out new forms of investment and additional opportunities for strengthening the economics of the neighborhoods. Linkages with state and local governments to position the community for a role in system reforms must continue to be strengthened in all five communities. Building and strengthening relationships and capacities to take full advantage of opportunities to receive devolved functions continues to be a top priority." (February 17, 1999) <http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/rci/rci3.htm>

For more information, contact:

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