

COFO Welfare and Relief Program

We believe that the Negro should stay in Mississippi and work out his future. To do this, Negroes may have to stay on welfare and relief until they win the right to get training and jobs. During the transition period there will be a greater and greater need for food and clothing for all ages of Negroes. Things are going to get worse before they get better.

C.O.F.O. has a program with a National agency to ease the problem of receiving clothing for all Negroes in need. The program works as follows:

1. Whenever a local group knows of clothing drives for Negroes in Mississippi it should get in touch with the Jackson office.  
(COFO, 1017 Lynch St. or P.O. Box 2896, Jackson, Mississippi)
2. We then contact the group running the clothing drive and direct them to send the clothing to a nearby warehouse of the National agency.
3. When the National agency receives the clothing, it will release and ship to us an equal number of pounds of clothing of whatever kind we tell them.

For this program to work we need to do three things:

1. Get people around the country to run clothing drives for Mississippi. Very often personal contact is the key to motivation for a drive.
2. Coordinate through the Jackson office with the group running the clothing drive and the National agency.
3. Establish in your local community a clothing committee to do the following things:
  - a. Interview people and locate those who need assistance.
  - b. Keep records of interviews and times aid was given.
  - c. Make decisions on who needs help most.
  - d. Distribute clothing in a businesslike way.
  - e. Send letters of thanks.
  - f. Find places of storage and/or distribution.