

Special Report - FEDERAL PROGRAMS PROJECT

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The purpose of the Federal Programs Project is to obtain and distribute information regarding the federal programs available to Mississippi Negroes, to help obtain legal and technical assistance to make full use of the programs, and, where necessary, to gather information on mishandling of federal appropriations in preparation for legal action.

The work this summer has largely been research to explore what is and what, under the law, should be available. In addition, in some areas, local groups have been organized to make use of federal aid to individuals, groups and communities. The types of aid available can be roughly divided into areas covered by the U.S. Departments of: Agriculture, Labor and Health, Education and Welfare. It would also include programs of the Area Redevelopment Administration and the Manpower Development and Training Act.

Agricultural work has resulted in the formation of the Madison County Farmers League, and the preliminary work has been done for the formation of a Farmers League in Leake County. The Madison County Farmers League was organized this summer, and now includes over 100 families. Farmers from all over Madison County have heard speakers from the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Sharecroppers Fund, describe Federal agricultural programs which were previously not known. Plans are being laid now to integrate the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Board, a county-wide committee which determines the cotton acreage allotted to each farmer under the Federal agricultural stabilization program. Preliminary planning has been completed for the establishment of co-ops in several communities.

The Manpower Development and Training program, administered by the Department of Labor will provide several job training programs in the state. Recruitment for these programs is being investigated by COFO workers. If discrimination is proved, the funds should be cut off.

Research has been started as to housing conditions in Shaw, Holly Springs, Canton, Carthage, Itta Bena, Greenwood and Indianola. The hope is that further research may lead to the establishment of public housing facilities. The administration of welfare funds is under continuing surveillance and complaints have been collected and compiled. These are continuing programs. Extensive research has been completed into the health situation in the state and a booklet, Medical Care and the Mississippi Negro, has been published. The information gathered will be used to guide future action programs.

A report summarizing the results of the Federal Programs project research into the administration of federal money in Mississippi, has been submitted to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.