

Youth Programs for FPHA Projects

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INTRODUCTION

This bulletin has been prepared as a guide to local housing authorities and housing managers in planning educational and recreational programs for project youth.

The bulletin will be released in several parts. Each of the parts will treat of different activities and services which should be given consideration in the organization and development of a comprehensive youth program.

PART 1----- Youth in the Emergency Farm Program

The shortage of farm labor is one of the most acute problems on the home front which is facing this country. To relieve this situation, appeals are being made through the radio and press for boys and girls 14 to 18 years of age to serve as Victory Farm Volunteers, by assisting in the planting and harvesting of crops and by performing other necessary farm chores.

The increase in juvenile delinquency is another serious problem facing the nation today. The Victory Farm Volunteer Program can be valuable in occupying the leisure hours of youth, thereby combatting this trend.

In consideration of these facts, it is recommended that housing management, in cooperation with tenant organizations and other community agencies, participate in furthering the Victory Farm Volunteer Program.

1. Scope of Program.

In addition to planting, cultivating and harvesting crops, farm volunteers may be useful in such work as caring for and feeding livestock; milking; sorting and packing of fruits, vegetables and eggs for market; haying, etc.

In some communities, girls may be most helpful in assisting with chores in the farm home, thus releasing farm women for work in the field. Depending upon their training and aptitude, they can perform such duties as canning; preparing fruits and vegetables for canning; preparing meals; mending; cleaning house; ironing; and caring for children, the elderly or the sick.

2. Organization of Program.

(a) Federal Level

The authority for determining farm labor needs and the responsibility for the over-all functioning of farm placement has been assigned to the Extension Service of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

(b) State Level

Under provision of the bill now in Congress, funds will be available to the State Agricultural Extension Service for training, placement, transportation and other services necessary to carry on the program. The Extension Service will work in cooperation with public and private agencies to utilize the facilities and services of such agencies.

(c) Local Level

Local organization for the development of the farm program will vary from community to community. It will be necessary, therefore, for housing management to become acquainted with the organizational plans in their respective communities. The local Department of Education, local Council of Social Agencies, or the local Defense Council should be able, in most cases, to supply this information. In large cities, the point of contact should be the U. S. Employment Service.

Where no local organization exists, the State Agricultural Extension Office or the County Agent may be considered a source of assistance and information.

3. Placement in Localities

The need for these young workers will vary in different parts of the country, depending on type of crops and available adult labor.

To meet these different needs, and in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, provision will be made by local committees, the U. S. Employment Service (War Manpower Commission), or public and private agencies delegated the authority, for three methods of placement; (1) day hauls, (2) individual placement on farms, and (3) work camps. Although the participation of youth in farm work is designated as the Victory Farm Volunteer Program, workers are not placed on a voluntary basis, but are paid prevailing farm wages. This is in accordance with a policy statement of the War Manpower Commission, after consultation with the Industrial Division, Children's Bureau, on the employment of minors.

4. Relationship of Housing to the Victory Farm Volunteer Program

A real contribution to the program can be made by young people in public housing eager for a part in the war effort. Properly supervised, the experience can be healthy, satisfying and educational.

Work groups should be organized, wherever possible, around existing youth groups in projects. Such groups can effectively participate as a unit in training activities. Groups of this kind under their regular leaders will work with greater productivity and better morale than newly organized squads of recruits under new leadership. Training courses for leaders and workers may become a part of tenant activities.

The responsibility of management to the farm volunteer program still exists in projects where no youth programs have been established. The inauguration of such a program in cooperation with local, state and national youth organizations may well serve as a nucleus for the continuation of youth activities.

Management can assist local committees or agencies in recruiting project youth. Employment through the local agency delegated the authority is necessary to safeguard health, working conditions, wages, transportation and supervision. Standards set up by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Dept. of Labor should be followed to insure satisfactory results to both the farmer and the young worker. In isolated projects, tenant organizations may well perform the functions of local committees or councils and work directly with State Agricultural Extension Service.

5. Reference Material

Farm Aides, A Guide for Group Leaders, 25¢
Womans Press, 600 Lexington Ave., New York

Guides to Successful Employment of Non-Farm Youth
in Wartime Agriculture
U. S. Dept. of Labor, Children's Bureau

Work Camps for High School Youth, 25¢
American Council on Education
744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Farm Work and Safety for Young People, 10¢
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C.

The Y. W. C. A. and Wartime Agriculture
Womans Press, 600 Lexington Ave., New York

Victory Volunteers
U. S. Office of Education
Washington, D. C.

Publications of state and federal Departments of Agriculture

Publications of local, state and federal Office of Education