## COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT **ENABLE**

(Partial List)*

**ARKANSAS**
Little Rock

**CALIFORNIA**
Riverside
San Diego
Stockton

**COLORADO**
Colorado Springs
Denver

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Washington

**FLORIDA**
Fort Lauderdale
Jacksonville
Miami
Tampa

**GEORGIA**
Atlanta
Savannah

**ILLINOIS**
Chicago
Chicago Heights

**INDIANA**
Fort Wayne
Muncie

**KENTUCKY**
Louisville

**LOUISIANA**
New Orleans

**MARYLAND**
Baltimore

**MASSACHUSETTS**
Boston
Lowell
Lynn
Pittsfield
Worcester

**MICHIGAN**
Lansing
Wyandotte

**MINNESOTA**
Minneapolis
St. Paul

**MISSOURI**
Kansas City

**NEBRASKA**
Omaha

**NEW JERSEY**
Camden
East Orange
Elizabeth
Newark
New Brunswick

**NEW YORK**
Mineola
Mt. Vernon
New York
Portchester
Troy
Woodmere
Yonkers

**OHIO**
Akron
Cleveland
Dayton
Springfield
Warren

**OKLAHOMA**
Oklahoma City
Tulsa

**PENNSYLVANIA**
Lancaster
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Wilkes-Barre

**RHODE ISLAND**
Providence

**TENNESSEE**
Chattanooga
Nashville

**TEXAS**
Austin
Beaumont
Dallas
Houston

**UTAH**
Salt Lake City

**VIRGINIA**
Norfolk
Richmond

*as of May 1966

PROJECT ENABLE

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION FOR BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT

CHILD STUDY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA/FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA/NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
ENABLE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 300 Park Avenue South • New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 982-6622

PROJECT ENABLE

## FACTS ABOUT

# helping parents break the poverty cycle

[Ms-0398.013.012.006]

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PROJECT ENABLE

FACTS ABOUT

# helping parents break the poverty cycle

[Ms-0848.013.012.006]

# PROJECT ENABLE

## New services to attack poverty operated by Family Service and Urban League affiliates funded by Community Action Agencies

**ENABLE** is a new alignment of services available to parents in selected "poverty neighborhoods." It is the **first** nationwide demonstration project sponsored by voluntary social agencies to be funded by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

ENABLE is sponsored jointly by the Child Study Association of America, the Family Service Association of America, and the National Urban League. Locally, it is being carried out by affiliates with funds provided by Community Action Agencies as part of the War on Poverty.

### ENABLE LEADS TO SELF HELP

All families are under stress today. Millions need professional help in the struggle against breakdown. Poor families have special problems—many become apathetic and distrustful because their opportunities have been limited, and services have been deficient and not effectively used.

**Disadvantaged parents must solve overwhelming problems every day**

The new kind of "team" approach developed by ENABLE intervenes in this demoralizing process, helps parents to recognize their strengths and the community resources they can use productively—enables them to be more effective parents through discussion of child-rearing, employment, schooling, and other environmental problems. They are helped to find constructive ways to cope with and change a hostile environment.

### TESTED SERVICES—A NEW APPROACH

ENABLE is based on the conviction that all programs to break the cycle of poverty will fall short of their goals if the home environment and community attitudes resist change, if parents are alienated through neglect and insensitivity, and if parents are not included in all services designed to help children.

In selected poverty neighborhoods, project teams use an educational group discussion method to reach and serve parents. The team consists of a Group Leader and a Community Organizer (usually professional social workers specializing in family counseling and community organization), assisted by non-professional Social Work Aides (employed residents of the neighborhood, specially trained). The neighborhood group is organized as a pivot for exchange of ideas, education, encouragement, and action. The team acts as the enabler to channel various community supports or services for whatever productive changes occur (individual or institutional) as a result of the group's activities.

### NEW RESOURCES—HOPE AND A CHOICE

The joint effort creates a new resource from which disadvantaged parents can gain such strength, motivation, information and know-how as is needed for a fresh approach to problems and to people—mate, children or outsiders.

Members of the team get acquainted with the problems of the people and their neighborhood, and work with them to plan solutions to bring about desirable social change.

**Parents, children, with a brighter future—the hope of ENABLE**

The problems discussed in groups are the concerns of the parents themselves. They are enabled to benefit more productively from their community's services—educational, social welfare, and vocational—including those made possible by the Economic Opportunity Act. They are given a sense of hope which helps build self-esteem and confidence; are helped to realize they **have a choice** and can make decisions for change.

### NEW ALIGNMENTS—UNITED EFFORTS

ENABLE includes many kinds of partnerships. To insure two-way communication between participating agencies and the neighborhood, each local project must have an Advisory Committee with at least one-third of its members from the neighborhood served. Such a committee identifies concerns and recommends courses of action. Voluntary agencies are working with federal and local governmental bodies; professional staff of different backgrounds are learning to forge a new tool for service; autonomous agencies are finding that common goals are better attained with a united effort; professional and non-professional staff are discovering each has an expertise of value, and organizations are helped to make room for new participants from the client group.

The local team in action reflects the pooling of knowledge by the three long established voluntary national agencies. When the project was approved in the fall of 1965, the Family Service Association of America, with more than 300 accredited local agencies having professional staff and community support, was delegated the job of administering the project and providing personnel with experience in family counseling to be Group Leaders.

The Child Study Association of America, pioneer in parent education, child-rearing practices, and the dynamics of group education, developed a course of study to train personnel in special methods of parent-group discussion.

The National Urban League, with five participating regional offices and more than 70 affiliates, assigned specialists with knowledge of community organization and methods for working with poor families and minority groups.

**Badly needed communication benefits members of the neighborhood groups**

Responsibility for implementing the total program nationally is vested in a three-agency Advisory Committee, aided by the national staff. Evaluation is provided jointly by Simulmatics Corp., and national research staff of ENABLE.

### PROJECT'S GROWTH PROMISES REAL AID TO FAMILIES

This **demonstration in action** is expected to reach approximately 10,000 parents, or 50,000 members of families during the first year. Although in a new service pattern, it will be with tested parent education and community organization methods, laying a foundation for expanded services. By May 1966, projects were funded and scheduled for 64 communities in 25 states and the District of Columbia, with 34 Urban League affiliates and 66 Family Service agencies participating. Professional social workers enrolled as ENABLE trainees, eventually to train others, totaled 135.

ENABLE conveys to parents a sense of concern, of commitment to action, and hope for the future.

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION FOR BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT

A joint project of three voluntary national organizations supported mainly by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity

**CHILD STUDY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA / FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA / NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE**