



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

Alice K. Wolf
City Councillor

TO: Cambridge City Council

FROM: Alice K. Wolf, City Councillor

RE: NLC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, 1985

DATE: September 25, 1985

This is a brief report on discussion and recommendations of the proceedings of the National League of Cities (NLC) Human Development Steering Committee (HDSC) on which I sit. The Committee consists of 35 members from around the country. I am the only Cambridge and Massachusetts representative.

Major presentations and discussion focussed on the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Recommendations were made for revision of present NLC policy on JTPA and youth training.

The Committee also discussed and came to consensus on recommendations in the areas of apartheid, refugees, and subminimum wage for youth.

The specific language of proposed resolutions and policy changes will be forwarded to you when they have been compiled.

Job Training Partnership Act

Looking at the experience to date with JTPA nationwide, the following are some of the salient facts:

- 1.) Only about 5% of the total target population who are willing to participate is being served due to funding limitations
- 2.) Because JTPA requires measurement of success in performance outcomes of the programs, i.e., number of people placed, there is a tendency toward "creaming", serving the most easy to place populations.
- 3.) The law allows only a limited amount of the overall funds for support services, and stipends. This makes it hard to attract youth, who respond to stipends, or other people who require support services unless they have other sources of support.

- 4.) States vary in how they allocate funds to their Service Delivery Areas (SDA). States are held harmless to 90% of their previous year's allocation. In some cases, because allocations to SDAs are based on unemployment statistics more heavily than on percent of economically disadvantaged, local allocations could fluctuate dramatically from year to year, which is very difficult to deal with administratively.

Supplementing current NLC policy on JTPA and Youth Unemployment, some of the HDSC recommendations will be:

- 1.) To stem "creaming" and better serve the hard-to-serve populations, e.g., economically disadvantaged youth, HDSC will suggest that additional incentive funds be granted for programs that are successfully completed by people in the hard-to-serve population. In addition, the standard for what is defined as success should relate to characteristics of the population that is served.
- 2.) To reach the hard-to-serve population, also, and to stabilize targeting of funds to SDAs, criteria for funding should be changed from a weighting of 2/3 factor of unemployment and 1/3 of economic disadvantage, to 1/2 and 1/2 for unemployment and economic disadvantage in the SDA.
- 3.) In order to ensure more information to fine-tune and upgrade programs, there should be an effort to follow the work history of a sample of the people served by JTPA for a long period of time.

The recommendations will be embodied in the Steering Committee's recommendations to the Human Development Policy Committee at the annual City's Meeting in December.

Apartheid

A resolution will be presented to the resolutions committee recommending various levels of divestiture and offering technical assistance and information through the NLC based on experiences in communities and states that have implemented divestiture proceedings.

Refugees

A recommendation will be made for language strengthening NLCs present policy against discrimination in the implementation of the Refugee Act of 1980. I submitted this proposal.

There was also continuing interest expressed in having the Federal government bear at least some portion of the cost of its refugee policy. It was pointed out that the cost is now born by local communities.

Subminimum Wage for Youth

The HDSC unanimously voted not to change present NLC policy which opposes the subminimum wage for youth.

AW/smb

cc: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services
Mary Flynn, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development
James Segal, Executive Director, Mass. Municipal League
Paul Eustace, Executive Office, Secretary of Labor
Hathaway Green, Executive Office, Secretary of Labor
Jeb Brugmann, Peace Commission
Nancy Ryan, Women's Commission



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Alice K. Wolf
City Councillor

September 26, 1985

Mr. James Segal
Massachusetts Municipal Association
131 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Jim:

I am sending you my report on activities of the Human Development Steering Committee of the NLC as I am the only Massachusetts representative. Please let me know if you have any input for the Steering Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Alice K. Wolf
City Councillor

AKW/smb

Enclosure

5.

S-706

Comm. from Councillor Alice K. Wolf, transmitting
for informational purposes her report on activ-
ities of the Human Development Steering Committee
of the NLC.

In City Council,

September 30, 1985

9/30/85

Placed

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