

State and Local Housing Programs

TEXAS HOUSING/MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR LIMITED TO MODERATE INCOME HOMEOWNERS

In 1974 Extension Home Economics undertook an educational project designed to identify materials, methods, and procedures that could be effectively used in assisting limited to moderate income homeowners acquire and apply knowledge and skills necessary in carrying out home care and maintenance jobs. More than 15,000 people have been reached through the project. Through telephone interviews and group meetings cooperatively conducted in 12 counties surrounding the pilot county, 434 participants reported a savings of \$6,465.56.

The project, funded jointly by the Extension Service, USDA and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System, was carried out in Smith County in East Texas through the use of one professional and four program assistants. Specialists in Housing and Home Furnishings and Home Management under the direction of the Assistant Director for Home Economics provided subject matter, leadership and guidance for the project.

American Research Bureau ratings reported over 12,000 people watched one or more of the thirteen 30 minute, color television tapes on home care and maintenance topics which were developed for the project and aired

during public service time on two commercial stations covering a 30 county viewing area. Instructions on doing minor toilet and faucet repairs, interior-exterior painting, caulking and weatherstripping, wall repairs, floor care, creating low cost cleaning products and care of major appliances and fixtures were included in the televised program presentations. An intensive mass media promotional effort preceded the use of the television tapes in the viewing area.

More than 1,110 limited-to-moderate income adults participated in 154 group meetings on similar topics conducted by program assistants. A newsletter series was used in a special attempt to reach 176 Farmers Home Administration and HUD clientele. A series of 30 different publications on home care and maintenance was developed by specialists to support television programs, group meetings, circular letters and other activities.

The project climaxed during March with a Fix-It-Festival which included exhibits as well as demonstrations on home care and maintenance topics. The sessions were conducted three different times during the day with approximately 500 people participating.

Several methods are being used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project. A measure of knowledge gained by group-meeting participants is being determined through the use of a pre-test, post-test instrument. Random sample door-to-door interviews are

being used to determine the effectiveness of the television programs. A mailout instrument is also being used to evaluate the meetings, letter series and Fix-It-Festival.

A summary of the project will be completed by the end of August 1974, and will be made available through Extension Service, USDA.

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MISSISSIPPI EXTENSION PROGRAMS FOR HOUSING STAFFS

Until Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service (MCES) became involved, the only in-service training offered for staffs of low income multi-family housing was that provided at the annual meeting of Mississippi Association of Rehabilitation and Housing Officials.

Over the years MCES has developed a working relationship with local housing authorities. Recently, other low income multi-family housing managers have been offered similar services, ranging from programs for management level and maintenance personnel at the state level to various educational services for tenants at the local level. MCES arranged and conducted one seminar for managers in 1972 and two in 1974. A workshop for maintenance personnel was conducted in 1972. Speakers from out of state as well as University teaching and Extension staffs provided the training for the first programs. MCES arranged the general sessions for the 1974 seminars using University staff, directors of local housing authorities (LHA) and HUD staff. Topics of

discussion were management principles, communications, understanding tenants and solving problems of management. The HUD area office conducted workshops on operational procedures for the managers of LHA and multi-family insured housing.

Special project funds were used to pay speakers and for other expenses. Participants were responsible for their own expenses. MCES will be glad to share copies of the programs and answer any questions about this activity.

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OREGON EXTENSION SERVICE PLANS TV SERIES ON ENERGY CRISIS

The Oregon State Extension Service assisted the Oregon Association of Home Builders with a Spring short course on "Building with the Energy Crisis as Boss." Now the Extension Service is planning a television series that will deal with energy considerations in site selection, orientation of the building on the lot, home design, selection of materials for construction, structural lighting, heating, and cooling equipment, color and texture, and control of humidity and moisture condensation.

The Oregon Extension Service is looking for valid research data, for innovations, and for bulletins that can be purchased for a home study course to accompany the television series. All input from AAHE members will be welcomed, and will be recycled through the *Housing Educators Journal*. (An example of the type of material available is Pacific Power

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