

SCOPE AND NEED FOR A COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM:

The recreation program of the Work Projects Administration is designed to provide employment on projects for persons in need, who are qualified to furnish leadership in organizing activities of a recreational nature and in directing group participation.

There is a great need for a quality-service program of recreation in every community in order that people may acquire various recreational skills and attitudes for leisure time pursuits. There must be opportunities for these same people to practice and develop these old and new skills under competent leadership whether it be individuals, family or community groups.

The need for recreation cannot be limited to any particular group within a community and care must be exercised in the administration of the program to include all the people. In some cases, special attention must be given to the minority groups (racial, economic, etc.), areas of high delinquency as a preventative rather than cure for crime, to rural areas with their particular problems, and to certain individuals in need of recreational therapy.

The community recreation program must be geared and adapted to the community needs. There are many ways of determining these needs and the method which will most adequately determine these needs should be used. Some methods are outlined below:

1. The conference method is probably the most widely used means of gathering information. By this method, the leaders in the community life and heads of local organizations who are interested in the social betterment of the community, are called together. In this way, information is assembled covering current programs, needs, and desires. The judgment of such a group would furnish the basis for the organization of a community program.
2. Personal interviews with the leaders of the community on the part of the recreation supervisor is another method of finding out information which will point out the needs and desires of the community.
3. In many cases, questionnaires have been assembled which when distributed among the people of the community will point out pertinent needs of the community.
4. The research method, if properly used, is probably the most effective approach to the finding of the real needs, interests and desires of a community. The information is carefully assembled, tabulated, analyzed, and the findings used to adapt the program of local