



Ford Foundation records, Urban Poverty Program, Office Files of Mark Elliott

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Elliott, Mark
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Urban Poverty Program, Office Files of Mark Elliott
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Date [inclusive]:	1965-1996
Physical Description:	11.11 Cubic Feet 29 Hollinger boxes
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation was chartered by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 "to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare", and initially served the Ford family's charitable interests in the Detroit area. Following the deaths of Edsel Ford (1943) and Henry Ford (1947), the Foundation was propelled to the forefront of philanthropy as the largest American foundation in terms of both endowment and yearly expenditures, and with an international scope to its major program areas. During the Foundation's first twenty years its major programs were in international economic development, primary and higher education, educational and public broadcasting, behavioral sciences, civil liberties, urban development, fine arts and the humanities. The Ford Foundation also partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation in supporting agricultural development in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Since the 1970s, the Foundation has also pioneered programs in women's rights, energy policy, micro-financing in under-developed countries, establishing human rights groups, and improving international HIV/AIDS education.

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Biographical / Historical

Founder and President of the Economic Mobility Corporation, Mark Elliott has made a career in both public service and philanthropy. During the early to mid-1990s, he worked as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program where he was responsible for managing the Foundation's grants to housing and economic development projects.

Elliott founded the Economic Mobility Corporation in 2007. In addition to his work with the Ford Foundation and Mobility, he has served as Deputy Budget Director of the City of New York and worked as an executive vice president for Public/Private Ventures.

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Scope and Contents

Collection contains the office files of Mark Elliott who worked as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program during the early to mid-1990s. The collection is comprised of one series of subject files. Elliott's subject files document his activities for managing grants to housing and economic development programs, research studies, and projects as well as his participation in the Urban Poverty Program's planning and strategizing efforts. Materials within the collection extend back from before Elliott's tenure at the Foundation up until the point where the Urban Poverty Program was set to transition to become part of the new Asset Building and Community Development Program (ASSETS) in 1996.

The collection chiefly consists of correspondence, memos, notes, drafts, reports, press clippings, newsletters, brochures, publications, schedules, agendas, and Recommended Grant Action records (RGAs). Documents show that during Elliot's tenure as a Program Officer, the Urban Poverty Program supported and engaged with organizations and projects concerned with economic development, community development, housing, employment and job training, housing discrimination and segregation, urban reinvestment, and anti-poverty strategies.

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Arrangement

Collection consists of one series of subject files. The records' creators imposed an inconsistent alphabetical arrangement on the files.

Collection arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Subject files, 1965-1996

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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archive@rockarch.org

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Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at the RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files, and officers' papers were transferred to and accessioned by the RAC beginning in 2011.

This material was transferred to the RAC in 2019 and was ingested by the RAC as Accession 2019:114.

Accessions continue as necessary.

Processing Information

Processing Level 3: Standard Processing

Processed by Darren Young, January 2020

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Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation
- Community development
- Community development corporations
- Community development, Urban
- Discrimination in housing
- Economic development
- Employment
- Housing
- Housing policy
- Low-income housing
- Minorities -- Housing
- Occupational training

Collection Inventory

Subject files, 1965-1996

Physical Description: 11.11 Cubic Feet 28 LTR size and 1 LGL size Hollinger boxes

Scope and Contents

Series contains the subject files Mark Elliott created when he worked as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program. The files document the Foundation's support of programs, research studies, and projects concerned with economic development, community development, housing, homeownership, employment and job training, housing preservation, minority owned businesses, housing discrimination and segregation, self-sufficiency, urban reinvestment, and anti-poverty strategies. Common material formats found throughout the series include correspondence, memos, reports, drafts, notes, press clippings, newsletters, brochures, publications, agendas, schedules, and Recommended Grant Actions records (RGAs). Although Elliott served as a Program Officer in the 1990s, his files include material from as early as 1965. These records document the Urban Poverty Program's earlier work that extended into Elliott's tenure as well as older research papers and articles that Elliott acquired.

Elliott's correspondence chiefly consists of communications with grantees and potential grantees, staff members from the Urban Poverty Program and the larger Ford Foundation, and other individuals involved with the housing and urban economic development fields. The series' contents show the impact of national public housing legislation and policy on the programs seeking and receiving Foundation support and on the urban economic development field with which Elliott engaged. Many records discuss the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the housing policies of the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton Presidential Administrations.

In addition to the files documenting Elliott's responsibilities for managing the Ford Foundation's housing and economic development grants, there are several files in the series that regard the planning and strategizing of the Urban Poverty Program. Among this material is a group of records which discuss the transitioning of the Urban Poverty Program to become part of the Asset Building and Community Development Program (ASSETS) in 1996.

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