Ford Foundation records, Economic Development and Administration, Problems of the Aging

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Economic Development and Administration, Problems of the Aging
ID:	FA1549
Date [inclusive]:	1956-1964
Physical Description:	2.3 Cubic Feet 6 letter document containers
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation's Problems of Aging program was a concerted effort to fund grants to help older citizens in the areas of 1.) housing and living arrangements and 2.) employment and retirement problems. At the height of the program, between 1956 and 1961, the Foundation made 42 grants and appropriations over $5.6 million. The grants were made to universities, local welfare and planning groups, and national voluntary and professional organizations. The goals of the initiative were to:

1.) Strengthen local-community action through programs designed to help older people help themselves, and through demonstration projects for improved planning and use of facilities, services, and funds

2.) Improve living arrangements for older individuals

3.) Develop sound factual knowledge on which to base retirement policies and practices

4.) Improve understanding of the employment problems faced by middle-aged and older workers through basic research and expansion of counseling, retraining, and placement services

5.) Strengthen teaching on problems of aging in schools of social work and other professional schools; and improve in-service training programs in public and private social-service agencies

The program started in 1956 with an appropriation of $500,000 granted to the National Social Welfare Assembly to be used by their National Committee on the Aging (NCOA) for the next five years. With this funding, the NCOA greatly expanded its research program and shared its practical findings widely throughout the United States. In December 1959, the Board of Trustees appropriated $300,000 for a series of demonstration projects in different U.S. communities with the goal of improving the organization of local programs for older people. These demonstration projects were carried out by: the Community Chest and Council of the Greater Worcester (Mass.) Area; the Community Welfare Council of the Richmond (Calif.) Area; the Denver Metropolitan Council for Community Services; the Health and Welfare Council of Metropolitan St. Louis; Marion County (Kan.) Department of Social Welfare; Minnesota State Department of Public Welfare; and the United Community Fund of San Francisco. The program began issuing terminal grants for the program in 1961, but the Ford Foundation continued to fund research into social issues for older individuals after 1967.

Stacey Widdicombe, a Program Associate within the Ford Foundation's Economic Development and Administration division, led the Problems of the Aging program. Prior to working on the Aging initiative, he was Assistant to the Foundation's Vice President Thomas H. Carroll.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, meeting materials, grant approval materials, reports, and memos related to the Ford Foundation's Problems of the Aging program within the Economic Development and Administration department. The collection primarily consists of the office files of Stacey Widdicombe, a program associate who led the Problems of the Aging program. Materials within the collection relate to the 1961 White House Conference on Aging, the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, the National Committee on Aging, research into social issues of older Americans, social security issues, economic and housing issues for older individuals, and rights of older workers.

Some materials in the collection relate to other projects within the Foundation's Economic Development and Administration program, including disarmament and grants for business education in colleges and universities.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series:

Series 1: Subject Files - S-W

Series 2: Office Files and Background Correspondence

The original order of the material was maintained.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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. Accessions continue as necessary. This material was transferred to the RAC in 2019 and was ingested by the RAC as part of Program Strategy records, Accession 2019:012.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Processing Information

Standard Processing by Katie Martin, September 2019.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation
- Older people -- Economic conditions
- Older people -- Home care
- Older people -- Medical care
- Older people -- Services for -- United States
- Social work with older people

Collection Inventory

Subject Files, 1956-1962

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, meeting notes, reports, and articles related to the Ford Foundation's program on the Problems of Aging. From the office files of Stacey Widdecombe, Ford Foundation program associate.

Arrangement

Subject Files S-W organized alphabetically by name of agency, demonstration project location, committee, etc.

Title/Description	Instances	
S - Correspondence, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 1
San Francisco, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 2
San Francisco Senior Center, 1957-1962	box 1	folder 3
Santa Barbara, California, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 4
Santa Cruz, California, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 5
Senior Citizens Opportunities, Inc., Santa Cruz California, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 6

Senior Citizens Service Center (L.A. County Committee on Aging), 1957-1960	box 1	folder 7-8
Senior Citizens Association of L.A., Inc., 1957-1958	box 1	folder 9
Social Science Research Council, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 10
T - Correspondence, 1959-1961	box 1	folder 11
Teachers Insurance Annuity Association, 1957-1961	box 1	folder 12
Texas, 1958-1961	box 1	folder 13
Technical Training and Vocational Education, 1961-1962	box 1	folder 14
U - Correspondence, 1961	box 1	folder 15
Union Settlement Project - New York, 1958-1959	box 1	folder 16
United Auto Workers (CIO), 1958-1961	box 1	folder 17
United Community Funds and Councils of America, Inc., 1959-1961	box 1	folder 18
United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, 1956-1959	box 1	folder 19
Virginia, 1961	box 1	folder 20
Visiting Nurse Association (Detroit), 1957-1958	box 1	folder 21
W - Correspondence, 1960	box 1	folder 22
Washington, State of, 1958-1959	box 1	folder 23
The Welfare Foundation of Cleveland, 1956-1958	box 1	folder 24
Welfare Planning Council Los Angeles Region, 1956-1959	box 1	folder 25
White House Conference on Aging - Connecticut Advisory Committee, 1959-1960	box 1	folder 26

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Office Files and Background Correspondence, 1957-1964

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, discussion notes, meeting materials, memos, and reports primarily related to the Ford Foundation's program on the Problems of Aging. There are materials related to other projects within the Ford Foundation's Economic Development and Administration, including the economics of disarmament and grants for business schools.

Title/Description	Instances	
A National Foundation Expresses its Interest in the Problems of Older People, Dr. Thomas H. Carroll, Vice President of the Ford Foundation, 1961 January 9	box 2	folder 27

Scope and Contents

From title page: "A speech by Dr. Thomas H. Carroll, Vice President of the Ford Foundation, and President-Elect, The George Washington University, at a special meeting of the White House Conference on Aging on "Highways to Economic Security" at the Shoreham Hotel on Monday, 9 January 1961. Dr. Carroll has had officer responsibility for the Ford Foundation's program dealing with the problems and potentials of older people."

Interview with Foundation Staff (John Witte?) Regarding Status of Social Work as a Field, undated	box 2	folder 28
Nieman Fellows (Harvard University) Meeting with Foundation Staff, 1961-1962	box 2	folder 29
Cross Reference Sheet - See Catalogued Report: A Progress Report on a Foundation Program on Problems of the Aging, 1957 August	box 2	folder 30
Interim Aging Report, 1957 February	box 2	folder 31
Notes on Gordon-Howell Report Meeting, 1958 December 13	box 2	folder 32
Aging - Mailing Lists, 1957-1958	box 2	folder 33
Dr. Nathan Sinai Trip/Consultant Correspondence, 1958	box 2	folder 34
International Rescue Committee (IRC) Correspondence, 1962	box 2	folder 35

Scope and Contents

Notes on original folder indicate there is more IRC-related correspondence in Ford Foundation Economic Development and Administration Chronological Correspondence Files. Notes also indicate this folder was saved for potential inclusion in the International Affairs Chronological Correspondence Files.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Working File, 1962	box 2	folder 36
Speech File, 1957-1961	box 2	folder 37-38

Scope and Contents

Notes for speeches, speeches on social work mailed to the Ford Foundation, speeches by Thomas Carroll, Vice President at the Ford Foundation, and Stacey Widdicombe, Program Associate at the Ford Foundation

Community Demonstration Projects, 1959-1963	box 2	folder 39

Scope and Contents

Grant status reports, correspondence, recommendations, and
memos

Economic Adjustments to Disarmament (R. Nelson) (Emile Benoit Project), 1961-1962	box 3	folder 40
Economics of Disarmament (General), 1961-1963	box 3	folder 41
Benoit, Emile, 1961-1963	box 3	folder 42
"Housing for the Elderly" Docket Item, Executive Committee Meeting, 1961 December 7	box 3	folder 43
Board Meeting - Aging Items, 1963 June 20-21	box 3	folder 44
Emile Benoit Project - Executive Committee, 1962 May	box 3	folder 45
Community Programs Presentation Memo - Board Meeting, 1959 December 11	box 3	folder 46

Scope and Contents

Appropriation of $300,000 for demonstration projects to
develop and improve community programs for older people

Evaluation Project Docket Presentation - Community Demonstration - Board Meeting, 1960 December 9	box 3	folder 47

Scope and Contents

Appropriation of $460,000 for demonstration projects to
improve the planning of community facilities and program
for older people

National Committee on the Aging Presentation (NCAO) Memo - Board Meeting, 1959 December 11	box 3	folder 48

Scope and Contents

Appropriation of $750,000 for general support of the
National Committee on the Aging for a period of 5-7 years

Raising Standards in Homes for the Aging - Executive Committee, 1961 March 30	box 3	folder 49

Scope and Contents

Appropriation of $140,000 for support of efforts to raise
standards of service and improve the quality of personnel in
homes for the aged

Job Placement Services for Older Workers - Executive Committee Meeting, 1961 September 21	box 3	folder 50

Scope and Contents

Grant of $177,000 to Washington University for a progran
to improve public and private job placement services for
middle-aged and older workers

Teaching Materials on Problems of the Aging, Council on Social Work Education - Executive Committee, 1961 March 30	box 3	folder 51

Scope and Contents

Grant of $160,000 to the Council on Social Work Education
for the development and distribution of professional
teaching materials on problems of the aging

Board of Trustees Meeting - American Public Welfare Association (APWA) In-Service Program Item, 1963 March 23	box 3	folder 52

Scope and Contents

Request for approval of a grant of $800,000 to the American
Public Welfare Association for a six-year program to
develop and demonstrate training programs for public
welfare personnel dealing with elderly people

"Health Services for the Aged:" Docket Item - Executive Committee Meeting, 1961 December 7	box 3	folder 53

Scope and Contents

Grant of $325,000 to the University of Rochester for a
four-year experimental program to determine the cost and
adequacy of health services for the aged

Homemaker Services, 1960-1961	box 3	folder 54
Local Welfare and Educational Budget Problems, L60-987, 1960-1961	box 3	folder 55
"An Evaluation of Public and Private Agency Efforts in the Placement of Older Workers," University of Illinois and Washington University, 1961-1964	box 3	folder 56

Scope and Contents

Irvin Sobel and Richard Wilcock

Retraining and Specialized Placement Services for the Elderly, 1960-1961	box 3	folder 57
The Role of the Board of Directors in the Modern Corporation L61-601, 1961	box 3	folder 58
Uniform Accounting for Nonprofit Organizations L61-900, 1961	box 3	folder 59
Associated Press (Ray Henry), 1959-1961	box 3	folder 60
Chamber of Commerce of the United States, 1957-1958	box 3	folder 61

Executive Office of the President, 1959	box 3	folder 62
Forty Plus of Washington, 1958	box 4	folder 63
National Farmers Union, 1957	box 4	folder 64
Resources for the Future, 1957-1958	box 4	folder 65
United Steel Workers of America, 1959-1961	box 4	folder 66

Scope and Contents

correspondence and newsletters regarding older workers/ retirees

Washington - General, 1958-1961	box 4	folder 67
American Public Welfare Association (Correspondence), 1959-1961	box 4	folder 68
L61-25 - U.S.-U.K. Study of Older Worker Problems, 1961-1962	box 4	folder 69
Special Committee on Aging Chron File, 1962 January-March	box 4	folder 70
Congress - Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging - Correspondence, 1960	box 4	folder 71
Federal Council on Aging, 1960-1961	box 4	folder 72
Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance District Offices (OASDI), 1957-1960	box 4	folder 73

Scope and Contents

Includes a Report of A Study of Referral Services by Old-Age and Survivors Insurance District Offices (OASDI), Roberta E. Townsend, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, January 1957

Bureau of Public Assistance, 1957-1961	box 4	folder 74
Center for Aging Research, 1958-1961	box 4	folder 75
National Institute of Mental Health, 1957-1959	box 4	folder 76
Federal Housing Administration, 1958-1960	box 4	folder 77

Scope and Contents

Housing for the Elderly

National Institutes of Health (Other Than Mental), 1957-1961	box 4	folder 78
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Office of the Secretary, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1959-1961	box 4	folder 80
Public Health Service, 1958-1960	box 4	folder 81

Social Security Administration Cooperative Research and Demonstration Grant Program, 1961	box 4	folder 82
White House Conference on Aging - 1961, 1959-1961	box 4	folder 83
Ollie A. Randall - Consultant, 1962-1963	box 5	folder 84
Economic Development and Administration - Budget and Grant Reports, 1961-1963	box 5	folder 85
Stacey Widdicombe - European Trip, 1960 April-May	box 5	folder 86

Scope and Contents

Sections include: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, England, Italy, Miscellaneous, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

Program for Programs in Aging, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 87
Program in Aging - Descriptions of Program and Grants, 1958-1961	box 5	folder 88
Stacey Widdicombe to Oscar Harkavy and/or David O'Connell (Memos, Reports, Drafts, etc.), 1961	box 5	folder 89
Status Reports - Program in Aging, 1958-1961	box 5	folder 90
Travel and Study Awards, 1960-1962	box 5	folder 91
Stacey Widdicombe Talk, "What! Retire at 40?," at the Drug, Chemical and Allied Trades Association Annual Meeting, Bolton Landing, NY, 1959 September 18	box 5	folder 92
Materials for Review Committees, 1961-1962	box 6	folder 93
American Friends Service Committee and Quakers U.N. Program, 1959-1961	box 6	folder 94
Economics of Disarmament (Friends), 1958-1960	box 6	folder 95
Friends Committee on National Legislation, 1958-1962	box 6	folder 96