



Ford Foundation records, United States International Affairs Program (USIAP), Urban Poverty, Office Files of Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Mehreteab, Ghebre Selassie
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, United States International Affairs Program (USIAP), Urban Poverty, Office Files of Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab
ID:	FA664
Date [inclusive]:	1978-1991
Physical Description:	1.9 Cubic Feet 5 LTR size Hollinger boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

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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

Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab has been involved in the areas of community development and housing for several decades. From 1981 to 1987, he served as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program where he managed grants to community development corporations (CDCs). He cofounded the NHP Foundation in 1989 and served as Chief Executive Officer until 2009.

Mehreteab was born in 1949 in Asmara, Eritrea. He graduated from Haverford College in 1972. Before joining the Ford Foundation, he worked with different community organizations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and served as an associate director of the New World Foundation.

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Scope and Contents

Collection contains the office files Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab created during his time as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program. It consists of two types of files. The first group of files contain Mehreteab's correspondence from the years 1981 to 1985. The second group of files contain Recommended Grant Action records (RGAs) and related materials for the various community development corporations (CDCs) the Urban Poverty Program supported during the 1980s. Mehreteab and his successor Craig Howard oversaw grants concerned with economic development, manpower development, housing, historic preservation, commercial revitalization, political empowerment, community development strategies, and community development information sharing services.

The collection originally consisted only of Mehreteab's correspondence, but another set of Mehreteab's office files was transferred to the RAC in 2019. These files were the CDC RGAs. They were incorporated into the collection as a separate series.

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Arrangement

Collection consists of two series. The correspondence files in the first series are arranged chronologically, and an inconsistent alphabetical arrangement was imposed by the records' creators on the community development corporation grants in the second series.

Collection arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Correspondence files, 1981-1985

Series 2. Community development corporation grants, 1978-1991

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

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URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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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.

A later set of Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab Staff Subject Files was transferred to the RAC in 2019 and ingested by the RAC as Accession 2019:108. This accession was incorporated into the collection during processing in January 2020.

Accessions continue as necessary.

Conditions Governing Access

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

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Appendix A: Reports – Unpublished reports written by Ford Foundation staff and consultants were removed from their original folders, scanned and transferred to the Archives' collection of staff and consultant reports. See Appendix A for a list of these reports and their specific assigned number. The reports are listed in alphabetical order by author. The assigned number may be used to access reports in the online catalog.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation
- Community development
- Community development corporations
- Economic development
- Historic preservation
- Housing
- Low-income housing

Collection Inventory

Correspondence files, 1981-1985

Physical Description: .19 Cubic Feet About .5 LTR size Hollinger box

Scope and Contents

Series contains the correspondence Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab created during his time as a Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Urban Poverty Program. The correspondence discusses community economic development grant requests, grant recommendations, current grantees, site visits to grantees, trips, and meetings. A number of documents concern the community development corporation (CDC) training workshops the Ford Foundation organized. Mehreteab chiefly corresponded with grantees and potential grantees, Urban Poverty Program Officer in Charge Bernard McDonald and other Ford Foundation staff members, and other individuals involved with community economic development.

The material in the series was created between 1981 and 1985. The series does not include Mehreteab's correspondence from his last years at the Ford Foundation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence file, 1981-1982	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence file, 1983-1984	box 1	folder 2
Correspondence file, 1984	box 1	folder 3
Correspondence file, 1985	box 1	folder 4

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Community development corporation grants, 1978-1991

Physical Description: 1.71 Cubic Feet About 4.5 LTR size Hollinger boxes

Scope and Contents

Files in the series chiefly consist of Recommended Grant Action records (RGAs) for the various community development corporations (CDCs) and other organizations involved with community economic development that the Ford Foundation supported during the 1980s. Some files include correspondence, memos, reports, and other types of materials in addition to a RGA or RGAs. There are some reports about the Foundation's support for CDCs at the beginning of the series as well as a file filled with program action forms and grant recommendations at the end of the series. The CDCs and other organizations that the Foundation supported pursued projects and initiatives related to economic development, manpower development, housing, historic preservation, commercial revitalization, political empowerment, community development strategies, and community development information sharing services.

The series contains RGAs for the CDC grants Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab managed but also RGAs for the grants that Mehreteab's successor Craig Howard oversaw.

Title/Description	Instances	
Support for Emerging Community Development Corporations, 1983 March	box 1	folder 5
Urban Poverty Program Request for Proposal - Community development corporations, undated	box 1	folder 6
Corrective Capitalism: The Rise of America's Community Development Corporations, 1987 July	box 1	folder 7
The Research Foundation of the City University of New York, 1985-1987	box 1	folder 8
Association of Neighborhood Housing Developers, Inc., 1986	box 1	folder 9
Arkansas Institute for Social Justice, 1988	box 1	folder 10
The Allegheny West Foundation/San Jose Development Corporation, 1983-1986	box 1	folder 11
Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1985-1987	box 1	folder 12

Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, 1985	box 1	folder 13
Central Germantown Council, 1983-1987	box 1	folder 14
Community Information Exchange, 1989	box 1	folder 15
Community Development Corporation of Boston, 1984-1988	box 2	folder 16
Citizens Forum for Self-Government (see National Municipal League), 1983-1985	box 2	folder 17
Drew Economic Development Corporation, 1984-1986	box 2	folder 18
Denver Indian Center Development Corporation, 1985	box 2	folder 19
Corporation for Public/Private Ventures, 1982-1985	box 2	folder 20
East Little Havana Community Development Corporation, 1987-1988	box 2	folder 21
East Liberty Development, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 22
Institute for Community Economics, 1985	box 2	folder 23
Kenilworth Courts/Parkside Addition Resident Management Company, 1986	box 2	folder 24
East St. Louis Community Foundation, 1984-1986	box 2	folder 25
Enterprise Foundation, 1982-1989	box 2	folder 26
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, 1978-1989	box 2	folder 27
GLIE Community Youth Program, Inc., 1985-1986	box 2	folder 28
Greenmount Development, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 29
Haitian Task Force, 1984-1988	box 2	folder 30
Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 31
Hunting Park Community Development Corporation, 1984-1985	box 2	folder 32
Institute for Community Economics, 1985	box 2	folder 33
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), 1989-1991	box 2	folder 34
Low Income Housing Information Service, 1984-1986	box 2	folder 35
Manchester Citizens Corporation, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 36
Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, 1986	box 3	folder 37
Minority Business Information Institute, 1986-1988	box 3	folder 38
Minority Developer Assistance Corporation, 1988-1989	box 3	folder 39
National Center for Policy Alternatives, 1988	box 3	folder 40
National Council for Urban Economic Development, 1988	box 3	folder 41
National Economic Association, 1988	box 3	folder 42

National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, 1989	box 3	folder 43
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), 1988	box 3	folder 44
National Municipal League, Inc., 1983-1985	box 3	folder 45
National Neighborhood Coalition, 1986-1987	box 3	folder 46
National Temple Non Profit Corporation, 1984-1987	box 3	folder 47
National Urban Coalition, 1982-1987	box 3	folder 48
Neighborhood Institute, 1988	box 3	folder 49
National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1981-1985	box 3	folder 50
North Side Civic Development Council, Inc., 1983-1987	box 3	folder 51
Northside Preservation Commission, 1983-1988	box 3	folder 52
Northeast Community Development Corporation, 1986	box 3	folder 53
Newark Collaboration Group, 1987	box 3	folder 54
NEWSED Community Development Corporation, 1983-1988	box 3	folder 55
Northeast Denver Housing Center, Inc., 1985-1986	box 3	folder 56
New Hampshire College, 1985-1987	box 3	folder 57
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, 1983-1986	box 4	folder 58
Operation Life Community Development Corporation, 1984-1988	box 4	folder 59
Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Rhode Island, Inc., 1986-1987	box 4	folder 60
Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Rhode Island, 1984	box 4	folder 61
Opportunities Resource Institute (ORI), 1987-1988	box 4	folder 62
Partnerships Data Net, 1984-1985	box 4	folder 63
Park Heights Development Corporation, 1983-1986	box 4	folder 64
Progress of Peoples Development Corporation, 1985	box 4	folder 65
Piton Community Development Project, 1985	box 4	folder 66
Task Force for Historic Preservation and the Minority Community, 1984-1988	box 4	folder 67
Philadelphia Fund for Community Development, 1986-1989	box 4	folder 68
Philadelphia Cooperation Office, 1984-1985	box 4	folder 69
Pratt Institute, 1988-1989	box 4	folder 70
Structured Employment/Economic Development Corporation (SEEDCO), 1986-1989	box 4	folder 71

Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford Stuyvesant History, 1985	box 4	folder 72
University of Texas, 1989	box 4	folder 73
Urban Affairs Partnership, 1984-1987	box 4	folder 74
Tacolcy Economic Development Corporation, Inc., 1983-1989	box 5	folder 75
West Oak Lane Community Development Corporation, 1984-1986	box 5	folder 76
Woodstock Institute, 1987-1989	box 5	folder 77
Community development grant program action forms and recommendations, 1985-1987	box 5	folder 78-79

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