



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

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Subject files	6

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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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Berresford, Susan V., 1994-1995	box 1	folder 1
Bratt, Rachel - Tufts University, 1990-1992	box 1	folder 2
Building Bridges, 1994	box 1	folder 3
Business development, 1991-1995	box 1	folder 4
Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI), 1991-1994	box 1	folder 5
Community development corporations history, 1992	box 1	folder 6
Community Development Corporation of Boston, 1988-1992	box 1	folder 7-8
California Housing Partnership Corporation, 1992	box 1	folder 9
Center for Community Change, 1987-1996	box 2	folder 10-13
Center for Community Self-Help, 1993-1994	box 2	folder 14
Center for Housing Policy, 1994-1995	box 2	folder 15-17
Civil society, 1995	box 3	folder 18
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, 1991-1995	box 3	folder 19
Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), 1993-1996	box 3	folder 20
Center for Policy Alternatives, 1995-1996	box 3	folder 21
Center for Neighborhood Technology, 1993 October 8	box 3	folder 22
Center for Urban Economic Development, 1991	box 3	folder 23
Chicago Urban Poverty and Family Life Conference, 1991	box 3	folder 24
Childcare/Economic development, 1993	box 3	folder 25
Children's Defense Fund (CDF), 1993-1994	box 3	folder 26
Transitions to Civil Society, 1995	box 3	folder 27
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), 1995	box 3	folder 28
Coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI Coalition), 1994	box 3	folder 29

Collaboration - Education and Culture and Urban Poverty Programs, 1994-1995	box 3	folder 30
Committee for Boston Public Housing, 1991	box 3	folder 31
Committee for Economic Development (CED), 1990-1996	box 4	folder 32-35
Competitive Communities Initiative, 1994	box 4	folder 36
Community Builders - Worcester, Massachusetts, 1994-1995	box 4	folder 37
Lemann, Nicholas - Community development, 1994	box 4	folder 38
Ten Community Development Case Studies, 1992 November 25	box 4	folder 39
Community Development Research Center (CDRC), 1991-1993	box 5	folder 40-42
Community organizing, 1993-1994	box 5	folder 43
Community Reinvestment Act, 1988-1993	box 5	folder 44
Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC), 1991-1992	box 5	folder 45
Communication strategy, 1993	box 5	folder 46
Comprehensive Community Revitalization Program (CCRP), 1994-1996	box 5	folder 47-48
Comprehensive community planning initiatives, 1994-1995	box 5	folder 49
The Conference Board, 1994	box 6	folder 50
Conservation Company, 1991-1994	box 6	folder 51
Consortium for Housing and Asset Management, 1993	box 6	folder 52
Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), 1989-1993	box 6	folder 53-54
Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)/ APWA, 1992	box 6	folder 55
Council of Governors' Policy Advisors (CGPA), 1991	box 6	folder 56
Culture, 1991-1995	box 6	folder 57
Andrew Cuomo Commission on Homelessness, 1991	box 6	folder 58
Daycare, 1991	box 6	folder 59
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), 1993-1995	box 7	folder 60-61
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), 1994-1995	box 7	folder 62
Greater Detroit Employment Opportunity Association, 1995	box 7	folder 63
Developing Countries Programs, 1991-1994	box 7	folder 64
Devolution, 1996	box 7	folder 65
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), 1988-1992	box 7	folder 66
Downs, Anthony, 1992-1994	box 7	folder 67

Earned income tax credit (EITC), 1993	box 7	folder 68
National Center for Economic Alternatives (NCEA), 1995	box 7	folder 69
Economic development information, 1987-1994	box 8	folder 70-72
Economic development information, 1991-1996	box 8	folder 73-74
Egypt, 1992	box 8	folder 75
Elliott, Mark - Consulting work, 1991	box 8	folder 76
Ellwood, David T., 1986	box 8	folder 77
Economic Policy Institute (EPI), 1992	box 9	folder 78-80
Enterprise Foundation, 1982-1995	box 9	folder 81-83
Environmental materials, general, undated	box 10	folder 84
Environmental Quality International (EQI), 1994	box 10	folder 85
Earned income credit (EIC), 1994	box 10	folder 86
Expiring use, 1992	box 10	folder 87
Fair housing, 1994	box 10	folder 88
The Family Support Act (FSA), 1991-1994	box 10	folder 89
Fannie Mae, 1992-1993	box 10	folder 90
Farley, Reynolds, 1990	box 10	folder 91
Federal Financial Support of Business, 1995	box 10	folder 92
Federal Housing Administration (FHA), 1992	box 10	folder 93
Food Research Action Center (FRAC), 1991-1994	box 10	folder 94
Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC), 1993	box 10	folder 95
Ford Foundation initiative, undated	box 10	folder 96
Foundation grants for housing and economic development, 1992	box 10	folder 97
Gateway/University of North Carolina, 1990-1995	box 10	folder 98
Government Spending to Aid the Poor, undated	box 10	folder 99
Governance, 1991-1995	box 10	folder 100
University of Michigan - General Assistance Evaluation, 1991-1994	box 11	folder 101-103
Grinker, William J. - Urban job creation proposal, 1994	box 11	folder 104
Habitat II: Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1991-1996	box 12	folder 105-109
Habitat II: Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1994-1996	box 12	folder 110

Harlem Urban Development Corporation, 1994	box 12	folder 111
Hartung, Bill, 1993-1995	box 13	folder 112
Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID), 1995	box 13	folder 113
Heron Foundation, 1995	box 13	folder 114
Housing Assistance Council (HAC), 1990-1994	box 13	folder 115-118
Housing - Daycare, 1990-1994	box 13	folder 119
History of housing policy, 1995	box 13	folder 120
Housing information, 1991-1993	box 14	folder 121-123
Housing preservation, 1991-1992	box 14	folder 124
Housing mobility, undated	box 14	folder 125
Housing trust funds, 1991	box 14	folder 126
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 1994-1995	box 14	folder 127
Kansas City, Missouri, Housing Authority of, 1995	box 14	folder 128
Kain, John, undated	box 14	folder 129
Kenya Community Development Foundation, 1995	box 14	folder 130
Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, 1993	box 14	folder 131
Lake Parc Place, 1991-1993	box 15	folder 132
Low Income Housing Information Service (LIHIS) - National Housing Policy Initiative (NHPI), 1989-1994	box 15	folder 133-136
Los Angeles Manufacturing Action Project (LAMAC), 1995	box 15	folder 137
Low Income Housing Information Service (LIHIS), 1991-1994	box 15	folder 138-139
Local Initiatives Managed Assets Corporation (LIMAC), 1992	box 16	folder 140
Low Income Housing Fund, 1991-1992	box 16	folder 141
Low income housing tax credit, 1995	box 16	folder 142
Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC), 1982-1994	box 16	folder 143-146
Low and Moderate-Income Housing Finance Task Force - Kirsten Moy, 1990-1992	box 16	folder 147
Market for Capital Loans Among New York City Nonprofit Organizations, 1988	box 17	folder 148
Marris, Peter and Martin Rein, 1967	box 17	folder 149
Midwest Center for Labor Research (MCLR), 1994		

	box 17	folder 150
Massey, Douglas, 1987-1992	box 17	folder 151
Media - Public Will Session of Urban Poverty Program retreat, 1986-1995	box 17	folder 152-153
Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) - Evaluation of Self-Employment Investment Demonstration (SEID), 1989-1992	box 17	folder 154
Mead, Lawrence, undated	box 17	folder 155
Mega-Cities Project, 1995	box 17	folder 156
John Merck Fund, 1995	box 17	folder 157
Metropolitan Affairs Corporation, 1988-1992	box 17	folder 158
Midwest Center for Labor Research (MCLR), 1994	box 17	folder 159
Minority business and entrepreneurship, 1965-1972	box 18	folder 160
Minority funding, 1976-1993	box 18	folder 161
University of California Los Angeles - Minority entrepreneur study, 1989-1993	box 18	folder 162-163
Ford Foundation Mission Statement, 1994	box 18	folder 164
Modification of Program Actions - Copies of letters, 1992-1993	box 18	folder 165
Ms. Foundation for Women - Collaborative Fund for Women's Economic Development, 1988-1995	box 18	folder 166-168
North American Development Bank (NADBank), 1994	box 19	folder 169
National Association of Community Development Loan Funds (NACDLF), 1991-1992	box 19	folder 170
National Center for the Early Childhood Workforce (NCECW), 1994-1995	box 19	folder 171
National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED), 1989-1993	box 19	folder 172
National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), 1993-1994	box 19	folder 173
National Council of La Raza (NCLR), 1992-1994	box 19	folder 174
National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED), 1984-1994	box 19	folder 175-176
National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (NFCDCU), 1994	box 19	folder 177
National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), 1988-1991	box 19	folder 178
National Governors Association, 1996	box 19	folder 179
National Housing Institute, 1988-1993	box 20	folder 180

National Housing Law Project (NHLP), 1992-1994	box 20	folder 181-182
National Housing Law Project (NHLP), 1991-1995	box 20	folder 183-184
National Housing Law Project (NHLP) Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 1993-1995	box 20	folder 185
Scope and Contents		
The Suburban Job-Link Corp photo ID pass in the files was made for Mark Elliott to use.		
National Housing Partnership Foundation (NHP Foundation), 1991-1992	box 20	folder 186
National Housing Trust, 1991-1995	box 21	folder 187-189
National Housing Trust, 1993-1994	box 21	folder 190-191
National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Development (NIRFFD), 1993-1994	box 21	folder 192
National League of Cities (NLC), 1987-1995	box 22	folder 193-196
National League for Nursing (NLN), 1992	box 22	folder 197
National Training and Information Center (NTIC), 1990-1996	box 22	folder 198
National Urban League, 1994	box 22	folder 199
Neighborhood Capital Corporation (NCC), 1993	box 22	folder 200
Neighborhood and Family Initiative (NFI), 1989-1993	box 23	folder 201-202
Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG) conference, 1993	box 23	folder 203
Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City (NHS), 1990-1992	box 23	folder 204
New Federalism, Monitoring the, 1995	box 23	folder 205
New Hope Project, 1993	box 23	folder 206
Newman, Oscar, 1993	box 23	folder 207
Foundations in the Newt Era, 1995 September	box 23	folder 208
New York City construction industry, 1991 January	box 23	folder 209
New York City Housing Partnership, 1991	box 23	folder 210
New York City Partnership - Small builders program, undated	box 23	folder 211
New York State housing conference, 1990-1992	box 23	folder 212
New School, 1992		

	box 23	folder 213
New York Community Trust - Neighborhood Strategies Project, 1993-1994	box 23	folder 214
Richard Nixon's domestic policies, 1995 January 9	box 23	folder 215
Nonprofit borrowing, undated	box 23	folder 216
Nonprofit housing management, 1991-1993	box 24	folder 217
North Carolina preservation, 1992	box 24	folder 218
North Carolina University at Chapel Hill, 1994	box 24	folder 219
Northeast Workforce Center (NWC), 1993-1995	box 24	folder 220
OMB Watch, 1994	box 24	folder 221
1000 Friends of Oregon, 1994-1995	box 24	folder 222-223
Partnership for Economic Independence, 1990-1993	box 24	folder 224
Pension fund investment, 1991 August 7	box 24	folder 225
Pew Charitable Trusts, 1993	box 24	folder 226
Philanthropy, 1994-1995	box 25	folder 227
Photographs of Mark Elliott, undated	box 25	folder 228

Scope and Contents

Images are photograph proofs of Mark Elliott.

Poverty perceptions, 1995	box 25	folder 229
Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) Poverty and Race, 1992-1996	box 25	folder 230-231
Program Related Investments (PRI) Ford Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting presentation, 1993-1994	box 25	folder 232
Prepayment rules, 1991-1993	box 25	folder 233
Program Related Investments (PRI), 1992-1994	box 25	folder 234
Program development, 1991-1993	box 25	folder 235
Program development - Womens and minorities' concerns, 1991	box 25	folder 236
Role of Program Related Investments (PRI), 1995 August 1	box 25	folder 237
Program initiatives, 1995	box 25	folder 238
Program support - Fiscal Year 1995, 1994	box 25	folder 239
Project Self-Sufficiency, 1988	box 25	folder 240
Property management, 1992	box 25	folder 241
Public sector project, 1994 February 18	box 25	folder 242

Recycling - Diana Dillaway, 1992	box 25	folder 243
Recycling and economic development, 1992	box 25	folder 244
Regional Plan Association (RPA), 1990-1995	box 26	folder 245-246
Reinvesting the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 1994-1995	box 26	folder 247
Rockefeller Foundation, 1994-1996	box 26	folder 248
Regional Alliance for Small Contractors, 1992-1993	box 26	folder 249
Donald Riegle's task force, 1992	box 26	folder 250
Rogers, Julie, 1991 September 24	box 26	folder 251
Rohe, William, 1992-1993	box 26	folder 252
Rossi, Peter, 1992	box 26	folder 253
Russian housing, 1994-1995	box 26	folder 254
San Francisco Development Fund, 1990-1992	box 26	folder 255
United States Department of Labor Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) report, 1991 June	box 26	folder 256
United States Small Business Administration (SBA) microloan program, 1992	box 26	folder 257
Scherer, Andrew, 1991-1992	box 27	folder 258
Schill, Michael H., 1995 July 15	box 27	folder 259
Section 8 Housing, 1993-1994	box 27	folder 260
Seedco (Structured Employment/Economic Development Corporation), 1986-1994	box 27	folder 261-263
Self-Employment Learning Project (SELP), 1995	box 27	folder 264
Self-employment Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) study, 1991	box 27	folder 265
Shames, Steve, 1994	box 27	folder 266
SIPI, 1992 February 3	box 27	folder 267
Skillman Foundation, undated	box 27	folder 268
Social capital, 1993	box 27	folder 269
Sosin, Michael, 1989	box 27	folder 270
South Africa - A community-based development strategy, 1990 January 24	box 28	folder 271
South Carolina Institute on Poverty and Deprivation (SCIPD), 1989-1993	box 28	folder 272-273
Southwest Community Development Initiative, undated		

	box 28	folder 274
State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, 1993-1996	box 28	folder 275-277
State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, 1992-1994	box 28	folder 278
Speeches - Vaclav Havel, 1994 July 8	box 28	folder 279
Staff retreat - Urban Poverty Program, 1993	box 28	folder 280
Street vendors, 1995	box 28	folder 281
Stegman, Michael, 1991	box 29	folder 282
Suburbanization, undated	box 29	folder 283
Surdna Foundation, 1994	box 29	folder 284
Sustainable America, 1995	box 29	folder 285
Defining Sustainable Communities, 1995	box 29	folder 286
Sustainable development, 1994	box 29	folder 287
Swarthmore College, 1992-1993	box 29	folder 288
The Empowerment Network Foundation (TEN), 1995-1996	box 29	folder 289
Transition material - Ford Foundation programming, 1995-1996	box 29	folder 290
Transportation strategies, 1992-1993	box 29	folder 291-292

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)