



# **Ford Foundation records, Population Program, Urban Poverty Program, Office Files of Oscar Harkavy**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator:</b>	Ford Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Ford Foundation records, Population Program, Urban Poverty Program, Office Files of Oscar Harkavy
<b>ID:</b>	FA677
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1961-1988
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.4 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation note

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## Biographical / Historical

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### Segment One: Population Activities of the Ford Foundation: An Overview

The historical arc of the Ford Foundation's work in population covers the scientific, public health, social, cultural, economic, and policy issues associated with population growth, contraceptives, family planning, women's reproductive health, women's rights, gender rights, and related national policies and programs. Gradually, in response to changes internal and external to the Foundation, the program involved women in the research and policy aspects and of informing public debate and understanding.

In sum, the Foundation's broad swath of activities related to population and human reproduction represents a significant area of continuous attention from the 1950s until the present time. (It is important to note, however, that some aspects, such as the focus in in the 1960s on population-related scientific research, was an outlier in terms of the Foundation's overall emphasis.) Despite all the changes in leadership at the Foundation and consequent reorganizations, changes in local and global contexts, and changes in understanding of what constitutes effective work in population, the Ford Foundation has

maintained a commitment to this field directly related to the health and well-being of women, their families, and their communities.

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## Biographical / Historical

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### **Segment Two: Ford Foundation Population Activities, 1952-1963: The Early Years**

The Ford Foundation's first grant in support of population was made in July 1952 to the Washington, D.C.-based Population Reference Bureau. The justification was the impact of population growth on increasing food shortages and on threatening world peace, the Foundation's top priority at that time. In October 1952, Ford Foundation president, Paul Hoffman, supported Waldemar Nielsen to prepare a feasibility study about developing a full-fledged population program. [Hoffman had been Nielsen's boss at the Marshall Plan, when Nielsen was director for its European information division.] Other early grants included support to the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Starting in 1954, the Ford Foundation began to support the Population Council for research, training, and action programs in population control and family planning. Over the period 1954-1993, Ford Foundation provided \$88 million in support of the Population Council.

These early grants also relate to the Foundation's work on the behavioral sciences conducted under the auspices of that program area and its lead officer Bernard Berelson (Berelson had a PhD from the Graduate Library school, University of Chicago; following postdoctoral training at Columbia University, he became a recognized expert on public opinion studies). In 1951, Hoffman had hired Berelson to run the Human Behavior Program. When that program was terminated at the Ford Foundation in 1957, the work on population became part of the program on Economic Development and Administration. Berelson joined the Population Council in 1962 and served as its president from 1968 to 1974.

When Berelson left, Oscar (Bud) Harkavy was assigned responsibility for the grants related to population. Harkavy, a member of the faculty at Syracuse University College of Business Administration, had joined the Foundation in 1953 to work on economics and business education under the program of Economic Development and Administration. He had no background in any of the fields related to population. Nonetheless, he was able to build on prior grants and the work of other foundations to develop the program. As noted by Harkavy, following the grant to the Population Council in 1959, the Board of Trustees began to take more seriously the question of population growth and soon family planning. Population issues had become a more prominent concern for other foundations and international organizations, as well as the newly independent developing countries. As a result, the Ford Foundation created a new overarching Population Program to handle more efficiently the varied grant proposals and activities ranging from biomedical research to field-based family planning activities in the United States and abroad.

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## Biographical / Historical

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### **Segment Three: Ford Foundation Population Activities, 1963-1981: The Population Program**

In 1963, then-Foundation president Henry Heald appointed Harkavy as the first director of the newly configured Population Program. Under varying titles, Harkavy remained responsible for heading the work in population under three presidents, until 1989. Harkavy and his program colleagues, many of whom went on to lead significant programs in other organizations, oversaw the expansion of the program and guided it through various restructurings under different foundation presidents and vice presidents.

Harkavy and his team were responsible for the grantmaking originating from the Ford Foundation headquarters in New York. In addition, they worked closely with the country and regional programs, where the program directors took responsibility for the country-specific initiatives. During this period, country programs, for example, in India, Pakistan, and Indonesia early on invested in the area of population with particular emphasis on family planning. The attention to population soon spread to other Foundation offices, with considerable efforts in Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, and Mexico, as well. Harkavy was also responsible for initiating and sustaining collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, the Population Council, the Mellon Foundation, and various other entities.

In 1966, McGeorge Bundy became president of the Foundation and reorganized the grants programs into two divisions: National Affairs and International Division. The Population Program was placed as a separate program in the latter division, with Harkavy continuing as "program officer in charge," the new title for directors. He reported to Vice President David Bell for the next fifteen years.

Under Bundy, the Foundation began to support work on refugees and immigrants, noted as a theme related to population and population movements. Work on this theme continued as an integral part of human rights, both domestically and internationally, into the 2000s.

Ford staff estimated that between 1959 and 1979 the Foundation spent \$225 million in the population field. Of that amount, from 1960 to 1979, the Foundation spent more than \$100 million in support of biomedical research related to contraception and fertility as well as human reproduction. Support also included research and development grants toward developing more effective contraceptives. For example, Foundation grants led to the development and testing of the intrauterine device, the IUD. It also funded work at the Population Council and the World Health Organization on contraceptive research; it provided overall support for the World Health Organization's Special Program on Human Reproduction. Through these programs, the Foundation supported the strengthening of scientific research around the world. The work on family planning also included support of the International Committee in the Management of Population Programs and helped establish a network of institutions that focused on improving the delivery of population programs through research and training.

In the United States, Foundation grants enabled the Alan Guttmacher Institute, for example, to conduct research on population problems. Those grants included training for specialists on population communications, promoting school population education, and preparing family planning publications and materials.

In addition to the basic biomedical research on contraception and fertility, the Foundation also supported social science research related to population and family planning. While international population conferences held under UN auspices started in 1954, it was the one organized in Bucharest in 1974 (and subsequent ones in 1984 and 1994) that attracted Ford population staff members' attention. These meetings introduced new ideas about the relationship of population growth to social and economic conditions, highlighting new issues, such as fertility and education, marriage, income, land tenure, and the status of women. The Ford Foundation reoriented some of its grantmaking to include these themes. Like the biomedical science research, the social science and behavioral research from the beginning included support for nongovernmental, national, and intergovernmental organizations in the United States and around the world.

Starting in the late 1950s, training linked to research was a core program strategy to build capacity in the biomedical sciences, demography, and social sciences. Grants supported, for example: the University of Michigan's Population Study Center, Princeton University's Office of Population Research, and the Brown University Population Study Center. The Foundation also provided support to twenty-five population study centers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Other examples of training and research programs include: a Latin American program of population studies linking social science research institutions; a Southeast Asia population research award program; and a worldwide research competition on population and development cosponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Population Council. Over more than twenty years, with Harkavy at the helm for the Ford Foundation, these three partners funders worked together to strengthen the field of demography and promote interdisciplinary research and training across the social sciences, as well as linking social scientists with demographers and other population researchers.

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## Scope and Contents

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Includes correspondence, subject files, correspondence and meeting records as well as a selection of speeches/writings.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged in 3 series by file type.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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### Processing Information

Level 1 Minimal Processing has been conducted to establish basic intellectual and physical control of the material and assess immediate preservation and conservation needs. Material remains as received, in original folders and storage boxes.

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

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

### Conditions Governing Access

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## Collection Inventory

### Chronological Correspondence Files, 1985-1988

Title/Description	Instances
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jan 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Feb 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Mar 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Apr 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, May 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jun 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jul 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Aug 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Sep 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Oct 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Nov 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Dec 1985	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jan 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Feb 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Mar 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Apr 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, May 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jun 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jul 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Aug 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Sep 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Oct 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Nov 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Dec 1986	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jan 1987	box 1



Oscar Harkavy Chron, Feb 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Mar 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Apr 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, May 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jun 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jul 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Aug 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Sep 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Oct 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Nov 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Dec 1987	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jan 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Feb 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Mar 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Apr 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, May 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jun 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Jul 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Aug 1988	box 1
Oscar Harkavy Chron, Sep 1988	box 1

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## Speeches, Writings, 1961-1987

Title/Description	Instances
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- Incl. Notes and Drafts, 1961-1976	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- "Best Ways to Improve Health in the LDC's" by David Bell and Oscar Harkavy, Feb 13, 1979	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- Health Issues Paper -- International Division Conference, Feb 1979	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- "The Politics of Contraception" by Carl Djerassi, Reviewed by Oscar Harkavy, Apr 1980	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- Briefing for Representative Conte Re: International Population Trends, Apr 29, 1980	box 2

Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- "Prospects for Improved Contraception" by Atkinson, Schearer, Harkavy and Lincoln in Family Planning Perspectives, 1980	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- Testimony, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade -- Population Assistance Programs, 1980	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File -- Miscellaneous Speeches and Drafts, 1979-1980	box 2
Oscar Harkavy Speech File, 1981-1987	box 2
Population Information Paper -- Related Papers, Notes, Data, Oct 1979	box 2
"Birthspacing: A Common Cause" by Oscar Harkavy in <i>International Family Planning Perspectives</i> , Sep 1986	box 2
"Funding Contraceptive Development" in <i>Technology in Society</i> , 1987	box 2
Oscar Harkavy -- Miscellaneous Writings -- Reports, Articles Re: Population and Family Planning, 1969-1976	box 2

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## Conference, Meeting Files and Subject Files, 1978-1988

Title/Description	Instances
Family Planning Conference (Jakarta), Apr 1981	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Program Review (folder 1), Oct 27, 1986	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 2), Dec 18, 1986	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 3), Jan 23, 1987	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 4), Mar 17, 1987	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 5), Apr 21, 1987	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 6), May 19, 1987	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 7), Aug 18, 1987	box 2
Reproductive Health Group Meeting (folder 8), Nov 17, 1987	box 2
Children/Families Meeting (folder 9), Mar 9, 1987	box 2
Children/Families Meeting (folder 10), Apr 9, 1987	box 2
Children/Families Meeting (folder 11), May 13, 1987	box 2
Carnegie Self-Help Meeting -- Social Support (folder 12), Oct 18, 1985	box 2

NGA Conference Panel (folder 13), Oct 28-30, 1984	box 2
Community Epidemiology and Health Management Meeting (Khon Kaen, Thailand) (folder 14), Feb 1-4, 1988	box 2
Developing Countries Review -- Child Survival/Population (folder 15), 1984	box 2
Developing Countries Review -- Population, 1984	box 2
Child Survival/Population Strategy -- Miscellaneous Papers and Memoranda (folder 16), 1984-1987	box 2
Population, Health, Family Planning -- Grant Lists, Financial Control, 1978-1979	box 2

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