



Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | Rockefeller Archive Center |
| Creator: | Commonwealth Fund |
| Title: | Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9 |
| ID: | FA281 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1921-1928 |
| Physical Description: | 1.14 Cubic Feet 3 boxes |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation note

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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Biographical/Historical note

The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 with an endowment of \$10 million from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness for "benevolent, religious, educational and like purposes." The early grants supported a variety of programs while generally promoting welfare, especially child welfare. Several grants were made in the field of medical research, but the Board of Directors decided in 1920 that this field was already sufficiently supported by other philanthropic organizations.

Despite this decision, by the mid-1920s the chief interest of the Fund had become public health, including mental hygiene, community health, rural hospitals, medical research, and medical education. Other grant areas included war relief, educational and legal research, child welfare, and international medical fellowships.

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Scope and Contents note

The Commonwealth Fund announced its Child Health Program on June 29, 1922. The goals of the five year program were "safe-guarding the health of the mother-to-be, laying a good health foundation for children in the early sensitive and formative period of their growth and health supervision and the formation of the essential health habits in school children." The responsibility for the conduct of the demonstrations rested with the American Child Health Association, which had been recently formed through the merger of the American Child Hygiene Association and the Child Health Organization of America. The Child Health Demonstration Committee of the Commonwealth Fund oversaw the program, with Barry C. Smith chairman and Courtenay Dinwiddie executive director. Other notable participants in the program include Philip Van Ingen, Richard A. Bolt, L. Emmett Holt, Sally Lucas Jean, Livingston Farrand, Donald B. Armstrong, and Barbara S. Quin.

The initial demonstrations were conducted in a city from the Upper Mississippi Valley, the general qualifications being that the population range between 15,000 and 25,000 and the infant mortality rate be approximately 100 per 1000 live births. Twenty-nine cities applied to host the demonstrations, with Fargo, North Dakota, being chosen. The first director of the Fargo demonstrations was Dr. William J. French, former Director of the Child Welfare Commission of Delaware. Subsequent demonstrations were held in Athens (Clarke County), Georgia; Rutherford County, Tennessee; and Marion County, Oregon.

The records of the Child Health Demonstrations consist of the files of the Child Health Demonstration Committee, and the documents relating to the four series of demonstrations. Included are annual reports and research statistics, on-site investigations regarding possible participants, and final report statistics. In the general files are internal memoranda, committee meeting minutes, correspondence, statistical summaries, and weekly reports concerning field observations of the demonstrations.

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File Plan note

Former Classification: IX; IV 4B 4;

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Controlled Access Headings

- Medicine, Rural
- Medical research
- Mental health
- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.
- Child psychology
- Child welfare
- Education, Rural
- Hygiene
- Law
- Legal issues
- Legal research
- Medical education
- War relief
- United States
- Public welfare

- Public health
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Child mental health

Other Finding Aids

Other available finding aids describing the Commonwealth Fund records include:

[FA247 Commonwealth Fund Harkness House drawings](#)

[FA275 Commonwealth Fund records, Advanced Medical Fellowships](#)

[FA276 Commonwealth Fund records, Annual Reports](#)

[FA277 Commonwealth Fund records, Archives/Library](#)

[FA278 Commonwealth Fund records, Austrian Program](#)

[FA279 Commonwealth Fund records, Board of Directors](#)

[FA280 Commonwealth Fund records, Capital Grants](#)

[FA282 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics](#)

[FA283 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Health Studies](#)

[FA284 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Public Health](#)

[FA285 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Publications](#)

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[FA287 Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research](#)

[FA288 Commonwealth Fund records, English Mental Hygiene Program](#)

[FA289 Commonwealth Fund records, Finance Committee](#)

[FA290 Commonwealth Fund records, Grants](#)

[FA291 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family](#)

[FA292 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships](#)

[FA293 Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance](#)

[FA294 Commonwealth Fund records, Interface Program](#)

[FA295 Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program](#)

[FA296 Commonwealth Fund records, Living at Home Program](#)

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[FA298 Commonwealth Fund records, Miscellaneous - unprocessed](#)

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[FA300 Commonwealth Fund records, Pilgrim Trust](#)

[FA301 Commonwealth Fund records, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency](#)

[FA302 Commonwealth Fund records, Reference Files](#)

[FA303 Commonwealth Fund records, Reports of the General Director](#)

[FA304 Commonwealth Fund records, Treasurer](#)

[FA305 Commonwealth Fund records, Turndown Lists - unprocessed](#)

[FA306 Commonwealth Fund records, Vertical File \(R. Fitz\) - unprocessed](#)

[FA307 Commonwealth Fund records, Visual Materials](#)

[FA389 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Historical Files](#)

[FA390 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Officers Files](#)

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| Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, January 18, 1923-December 27, 1923 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, January 5, 1924-December 29, 1924 | box 1 | folder 4 |

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| Child Health Demonstration Committee - Research Unit Report, 1925 | box 1 | folder 10 |
| Child Health Demonstration Committee - Site Selection Investigations - First Demonstrations, June 1921-November 1922 | box 1 | folder 11 |
| Child Health Demonstration Committee - Site Selection Investigations - Southern Demonstrations, March 1923-August 1923 | box 1 | folder 12 |
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| Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Health Education and Physical Education, Dental Service, Sanitation Service, Laboratory Service | box 2 | folder 29 |
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| Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Public Health Expenditures, A.P.H.A. Appraisal Scores | box 2 | folder 32 |
| Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Vital Statistics, Communicable Disease Statistics, Special Studies of Mortality Rates | box 2 | folder 33 |
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| Rutherford County Tennessee Child Health Demonstration - Survey and Appraisal of the Public Health Activities of Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1923-1928 | box 3 | folder 48 |
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| Marion County Oregon Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Public Health Expenditures, A.P.H.A. Appraisal Scores | box 3 | folder 56 |