



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

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman
Creator:	Harkness, Charles W.
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Creator:	Harkness, Anna M. Richardson
Creator:	Harkness, Edward Stephen
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9
ID:	FA281
Date [inclusive]:	1921-1928
Physical Description:	1.32 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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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access note

Open for scholarly research, except where particular restrictions are noted.

RAC is unable to provide access to obsolete media and original digital media. When feasible, a digital surrogate may be created via special order. All applicable charges will apply. See RAC Head of Archival Services or RAC Head of Digital Programs for details.

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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
- Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman
- Harkness, Charles W.
- Social Science Research Council
- Harvard University
- Commonwealth Fund
- Harkness, Anna M. Richardson
- Columbia University
- Harkness, Edward Stephen
- Yale University
- Phillips Exeter Academy

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](#)

[FA286 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Rural Hospitals](#)

[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](#)

[FA297 Commonwealth Fund records, Mental Hygiene Program](#)

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

[FA299 Commonwealth Fund records, Personnel - unprocessed](#)

[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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Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Materials requiring specialized equipment for access (film, audio, video, slides) may be closed to research dependent on availability of the applicable equipment

Brittle or damaged items, or materials otherwise in need of preservation care, may be closed to researchers at the discretion of the RAC Head of Archival Services/Head of Reference.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, December 29, 1921-December 12, 1922	box 1	folder 1
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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
Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, January 5, 1924-December 29, 1924	box 1	folder 5
Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, January 3, 1925-December 24, 1925	box 1	folder 6
Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, February 11, 1926-December 27, 1926	box 1	folder 7
Child Health Demonstration Committee - General Files, January 5, 1927-December 7, 1928	box 1	folder 8
Child Health Demonstration Committee - Research Unit Report, 1924	box 1	folder 9
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

Child Health Demonstration Committee - Site Selection Investigations - Southern Demonstrations, March 1923-August 1923	box 1	folder 13
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Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - Annual Report, October 1, 1923-September 15, 1924	box 2	folder 15
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Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - Annual Report, January 1, 1926-December 31, 1926	box 2	folder 18
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Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - General Files, January 6, 1925-November 20, 1925	box 2	folder 22
Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - General Files, February 22, 1926-December 3, 1926	box 2	folder 23
Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - General Files, October 2, 1927-April 17, 1928	box 2	folder 24
Athens Child Health Demonstration - Annual Report, January 1, 1924-December 31, 1924	box 2	folder 25
Athens Child Health Demonstration - Annual Report, January 1, 1925-December 31, 1925	box 2	folder 26
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Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Medical Service; Time Distribution and Salary Cost, Health Examinations-Defects and Corrections, Communicable Disease Control	box 2	folder 30
Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Nursing Services; Time Distribution and Salary Cost, Volume and Intensity	box 2	folder 31

of Nursing Visits, School Nursing-Educational and Organizational Activities, Special Studies of Maternity and Morbidity Service

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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Marion County Oregon Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Medical Service; Time Distribution and Salary Cost, Health Examinations-Defects and Corrections, Communicable Disease Control	box 3	folder 54
Marion County Oregon Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Nursing Service; Time Distribution and Salary Cost, School Nursing and Organization Activities, Volume and Intensity of Field Visits, Special Study of Maternity and Morbidity Service	box 3	folder 55
Marion County Oregon Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Public Health Expenditures, A.P.H.A. Appraisal Scores	box 3	folder 56