

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

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

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: 1.32 Cubic Feet 3 boxes

Language of the English

Material:

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

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 research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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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
- 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

Collection Inventory

Title/Description Instances

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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
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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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Child Health Demonstration Committee - Site Selection Investigations - Western Demonstrations, October 1923-November 1923	box 1	folder 14
Fargo Child Health Demonstrations - Annual Report, October 1, 1923-September 15, 1924	box 2	folder 15
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Athens Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - Public Health Expenditures, A.P.H.A. Appraisal Scores	box 2	folder 32	
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Marion County Oregon Child Health Demonstration - Final Report - box 3 folder 56 Public Health Expenditures, A.P.H.A. Appraisal Scores