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July 1986

TO: Natural Resources Department
Office of the Commissioner

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FROM: Zona De Witt
Assistant for State Documents
Legislative Reference Library

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 3.195 and 3.302, subdivision 3 please forward ten (10) copies of the following publication(s) to the Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155.

Pursuant to 1985 First Special Session, Chapter 14, Article 9, section 3....

- - - the commissioner shall consult the Full Productivity and Opportunity Coordinator and develop a plan that establishes priority for unemployed youths who are economically, socially physically ro educationally disadvataged....

The commissioner shall submit the plan....

If such a plan was developed, please forward copies to the Library to comply with the state document depository law.

Please advise. Thank you.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 3.195 and 3.302, subdivision 3, please place the Library on your mailing list for all future publications, newsletters, brochures, etc. Any questions that you have should be addressed to Zona De Witt at 296-9267. Thank you for your cooperation.

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645 State Office Building
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Pursuant to 1985 First Spl Session
ch 14, Article 9 section 3

AGENCY PLAN CONTENTS

1. What role does your agency currently play in the employment/training/education system?

The DNR, through the MCC, provides summer jobs for 16-18 year olds and up to 12 months of conservation work for 18-26 year olds. There is 5 hours each week of an educational and training component in our summer program where youth learn environmental awareness and career development materials. The youth and young adults accomplish needed conservation work on public lands

2. Do you currently target your services to persons on public assistance or who are unemployed?

Yes
If so, what services?

Participants in our young adult program must be unemployed to work in MCC.

How are they targeted?

Participants selected through Job Service Offices.

3. Could your agency/program play a greater role in targeting your resources so that persons who are unemployed or on public assistance could become self-sufficient?

Yes

4. How can you target your services to serve more persons who are unemployed or on public assistance? (See enclosed Michigan legislation)

One option would be to push for a larger program (we are currently only serving 60-70 young adults in our year round program) and develop new legislation that would require all our participants to be on public assistance. Currently, Michigan has a similar program called the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps funded at \$5,400,000 and serves only individuals on general assistance. Preliminary discussions are under way within DNR to measure support for this concept.

5. What is a reasonable goal to set for improving services to targeted populations in the next biennium?

If we can ascertain acceptance for the concept of utilizing individuals on public assistance as MCC corps members within DNR and some legislation on executive support for this concept, the MCC would provide a valuable employment experience in assisting these individuals in future career opportunities.

6. Do you interact now with local, federal, and private sector resources?

If so, please describe.

Over the last year, the MCC has had a good working relationship with the following:

(See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A

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development or job-seeking techniques.(Budget need - \$3,500 - \$4,000 for 60-70 Corps members annually.)

3. To encourage educational/vocational development after MCC, we would like to offer each MCC participant who completes 12 months either a \$300 cash stipend or a \$1,000 educational voucher. Perhaps the states' higher educational system would foot part of the bill for the educational voucher as it would encourage more young adults to pursue higher education.(Budget need - \$35,000 for 60-70 corps members annually.)

ATTACHMENT A

- V
- a. Job Training & Partnership Act Service Delivery Areas (6 SDA's)
 - b. Minnesota Summer Youth Program - Department of Economic Security
 - c. USDA Food Program/MN Department of Education
 - d. Minneapolis and Duluth Area Regional Service Center for Hearing-Impaired People
 - e. Deaf Services Division, Department of Public Welfare
 - f. Minnesota Federal Surplus Property
 - g. Stillwater State Prison, Department of Corrections
 - h. Redwing Correctional Facility, Department of Corrections
 - i. MN Job Service, Department of Economic Services
 - j. Minnesota Safety Council
 - k. Minnesota Department of Transportation

7. Other concerns, suggestions:

- A. Between 5-10% of our corps members have found higher paying employment within the DNR as a result of working in our program. One of the most likely positions for them to step into is non-tenured laborer. Unfortunately, for six month out of the year, they are not eligible, due to the summer jobs program policy issued by Governor Perpich (see attached memo). I recommend that next summer MCC'ers be exempt from the restriction that they must be unemployed to seek the non-tenured laborer positions.
- B. In addition, I have three plans to increase the training and education components of MCC which will make the corps members more employable.
 - 1. Increase literacy for corps members following guidelines set up by the University of Southern California Writing Project for the California Conservation Corps. This includes having the corps members fill out the required forms and keep a daily journal.
 - 2. In addition, contracts with local vocational/technical institutes or other available vendors to provide 1-2 day seminars on career