

THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--

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WPA Educational Program Reaches 1,300,000 Persons.

More than 1,300,000 persons throughout the country are benefiting from the Works Progress Administration's educational program, which has created jobs for about 34,000 teachers, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today.

State and local educational authorities, which sponsor and control the various classes, have cooperated with the Works Progress Administration in reaching thousands formerly denied educational advantages of any kind, Mr. Hopkins pointed out, in commenting upon the October report of Dr. L.R. Alderman, educational director.

Despite the fact that thousands of teachers have left Works Progress Administration rolls during the summer and fall for positions in public schools, enrollment in the adult classes has continued to mount and was greater than any previous October during the past three years, the report shows.

In its fourth successive year, the adult education program, embracing general adult studies, literacy classes, workers' education, vocation study groups, parent education, freshman college units, correspondence courses and other educational projects, is now operating throughout the nation with a total October enrollment of 1,277,482 men and women in 86,446 classes covering the entire range of adult interest and a staff of 29,458 teachers, according to the report.

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In addition, 4,982 teachers were employed in this month on the staffs of 1,466 nursery schools, which enrolled 46,661 children from two to four years of age. Total enrollment in classes of all kinds in October was 1,324,144 with 34,440 instructors conducting 87,912 classes.

"Although this enrollment is somewhat larger than the combined enrollment of all the colleges and universities in the country," Mr. Hopkins explained, "the federal government has intentionally sought to avoid a separate system of education. Federal authorities have consistently recognized that education is primarily a function of State and local school officials, and in practically every State the Works Progress Educational program has been sponsored by a State Department of Education. State and local public school officials have decided what types of education were needed in their communities. They have supervised the work of the teachers. Most classes have been held in public school buildings. The wisdom of such a policy is shown by the fact that already some of the more successful adult classes and nursery schools have been incorporated into the permanent local educational structure."

Mr. Hopkins emphasized the achievement of the program in teaching about 580,000 men and women to read and write during the last three years.

"Through the WPA educational program, illiteracy in the United States has already been reduced ^{by} about 12 percent," he said, "although the problem remains one of vast proportions. In October there were about 190,000 enrolled in literacy classes, with 5,600 teachers engaged in their instruction."

The Works Progress Administration has been particularly alert to the need for vocational training for the unemployed, Mr. Hopkins declared.

Courses have been offered in practically all occupations in which there is likelihood of employment for the persons who are trained. In October, 207,348 persons were receiving vocational training in 14,210 classes, employing 4,814 teachers. Instruction included classes in the fields of industrial, mechanical and building trades, commercial work of all types, training in all phases of agriculture, and the service occupations such as household employment, restaurant and hotel work, sewing, tailoring, millinery, cooking, and care of children. In some sections of the country, native arts and crafts have been revived and unemployed men and women taught to become self-supporting through the making of distinctive native art products. In every State courses have been provided for women in the preparation of foods, making of clothing, home management, household art, home hygiene and child care.

Under the guidance of a national advisory committee representing the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the American Association of University Women, and other agencies, the Works Progress Administration has developed an extensive parent education program.

During October, 931 teachers were employed and 56,691 mothers and fathers were members of study groups, reaching thousands of parents in rural and mining districts, in the industrial sections of large cities, and among the Negroes of the South.

Workers' Education, still in its pioneer stage in the United States, reflects the interest of the organized labor movement in the study of economic problems, according to the report. During October, 836 teachers conducted 2,685 classes, with 46,576 workers enrolled. Through these classes, the Works Progress Administration offers cooperation to industrial and rural workers who wish to study their own problems in their larger setting and to use this wider understanding for the solution of their problems in relation

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to the organized labor movement and in their own communities.

The general adult classes have an enrollment of 573,166, with instruction ranging from music, art and creative writing to first aid, parliamentary reading and Braille reading for the blind. Tens of thousands of men and women, who were forced to leave school in the lower grades, the report points out, find that "the door of education is not entirely closed to them."

The depression robbed millions of children of a fair start in life, Dr. Alderman observed. Consequently, the WPA nursery schools represent an attempt to restore their rightful measure of health and happiness to thousands in these classes. During the four years of the program, at least 150,000 small children have been cared for. In October, there were 46,661 enrolled in 1,466 classes administered by 4,982 instructors. The daily schedule of the nursery school includes a three-hour play period, a nourishing mid-day meal, and a two-hour rest period. Because of the thorough training in all phases of child care given to the WPA nursery school teachers, large numbers of teachers have been removed from the lists of the unemployed to find work with public schools and established child welfare agencies.

Another effect of the depression was to frustrate the plans of thousands of young people for college educations. In a number of States, the Works Progress Administration has helped to meet this problem by carrying the college to the student. In October, 67 "Freshman College Centers" were in operation in nine states, employing 455 teachers and offering regular first year college courses, with credit, to 7,962 young people. In addition, 310 teachers were engaged in conducting correspondence courses in 15 States, in which 14,909 students were enrolled. Also, other educational projects, such as preparation of WPA teaching materials, engaged 3,483 teachers in 10,643 classes, with an enrollment of 181,456.

(The attached tables show the enrollment by classes and by States.)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
TEACHERS, ENPOLLEES AND CLASSES IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1936
BY CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	TEACHERS	ENPOLLEES	CLASSES
General Adult	13,029	573,166	39,480
Literacy	5,600	189,375	15,403
Workers	836	46,576	2,685
Vocational	4,814	207,348	14,210
Parent Education	931	56,691	3,362
Nursery Schools	4,982	46,661	1,466
Freshman College	455	7,962	67
Correspondence Study Centers	310	14,909	596
Other Educational Projects	3,483	181,456	10,643
	34,440	1,324,144	87,912

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
TEACHERS, ENROLLEES AND CLASSES IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1936, BY STATES

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STATES	TEACHERS	ENROLLEES	CLASSES
Alabama	623	11,308	570
Arizona	200	5,853	330
*Arkansas	-	-	-
California	1,558	69,029	3,264
Colorado	495	17,932	1,143
Connecticut	544	18,087	1,089
Delaware	28	110	
District of Columbia	108	3,435	165
Florida	603	15,549	922
Georgia	693	19,262	2,635
Idaho	200	5,884	302
Illinois	2,161	63,593	4,926
Indiana	691	18,526	1,011
Iowa	245	7,853	567
Kansas	639	15,712	1,397
Kentucky	731	21,001	1,912
Louisiana	843	41,670	6,092
Maine	132	1,487	122
Maryland	115	4,924	154
Massachusetts	1,088	22,026	1,576
Michigan	612	19,532	1,018
Minnesota	348	14,933	1,135
Mississippi	1,047	41,530	2,476
Missouri	605	25,062	1,544
Montana	108	2,945	201
Nebraska	416	9,719	715
Nevada	33	747	54
New Hampshire	75	3,556	243
New Jersey	782	17,499	887
New Mexico	160	3,127	268
New York State	2,675	104,860	11,694
North Carolina	696	17,372	1,715
North Dakota	224	10,071	447
Ohio	1,722	37,119	5,737
Oklahoma	199	8,775	513
Oregon	279	13,708	677
Pennsylvania	2,182	142,111	7,801
Rhode Island	156	5,608	494
South Carolina	702	18,674	624
South Dakota	246	10,227	642
Tennessee	423	9,004	483
Texas	1,704	94,994	5,334
Utah	179	6,891	377
Vermont	115	6,540	442
Virginia	756	22,277	1,367
Washington	272	9,359	936
West Virginia	902	31,728	1,561
Wisconsin	444	20,416	1,245
Wyoming	109	4,554	171
New York City	4,572	197,980	8,934
	<u>34,440</u>	<u>1,324,144</u>	<u>87,912</u>

Source:

WPA Division of Statistics & Finance

*Program temporarily closed
 pending approval of project

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