

UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBURBAN COUNCILS COLLECTION

Papers, 1921-1959, 1966
(Predominantly, 1930-1955)

9.25 linear feet

Accession Number 420
L.C. Number MS

The papers of the United Community Services pertaining to the U.C.S. Suburban Councils were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in July of 1987 and were opened for research in January of 1989. The following restriction applies: No names contained in case reports, or in correspondence or any other records relating to specific cases, may be cited.

The Suburban Councils developed as a result of the feeling of residents in the metropolitan Detroit area that they were not receiving a fair return on their investment in the centralized Detroit Community Fund and Detroit Community Union (predecessors to the United Foundation and U.C.S), and that the lack of local planning reduced the effectiveness of the services provided to these communities. Established as organizational units of the Fund and Union in the independent political entities where they operated, the branches served both as councils of social agencies and as community chests, handling the planning and social service and the fund raising aspects of community work. Although the councils occupied subordinate positions within the parent U.C.S. organization, they did have some autonomy, and provided local insight and perspective on the social welfare needs of their communities.

The first suburban branch was the Royal Oak Township Branch (later the Southern Oakland County Suburban Council), established in 1926. The establishment of several other branches followed; their names, number and composition varied over the years. The main councils were those in Hamtramck (1927); Downriver (the Wyandotte Branch, established in 1927, eventually became the Downriver Council, encompassing several communities and incorporating other downriver branches); Dearborn (1930); Highland Park (1931); Southern Oakland County; and Warren Township (1941).

This collection documents the Councils' development, programs and activities, along with the growth of suburban Detroit. The Councils were involved in many aspects of life in the community,

United Community Services
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providing such services as case work, prenatal and well baby clinics, girls' and boys' clubs, community recreational activities, and family counseling, through both U.C.S.-funded and non-funded agencies. The Councils established Inter-Agency Committees, to coordinate the activities of the various agencies with which they worked, and Inter-Racial Committees, to work for racial harmony. As the Council of Social Agencies evolved, so did the Suburban Councils, their functions, and their relationships to the U.C.S.

Important subjects covered in this collection include:

American Red Cross	Salvation Army
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts	Southern Oakland County Suburban Council
Dearborn Suburban Council	Visiting Nurse Association
Downriver Suburban Council	Warren Township Suburban Council
Family Service Association	Y.M.C.A. & Y.W.C.A.
Hamtramck Suburban Council	
Highland Park Suburban Council	

Among the important correspondents are:

Paul Neal Averill	Lawrence W. Lossing
Paul Azary, Jr.	Robert H. MacRae
Richard S. Bachman	George Edward McClure
Clement E. Constantine	Egbert W. Neidig
Cecilia Craig	James H. Norton
Percival Dodge	William J. Norton
William A. Doyle	Terence J. Rielly
Winnifred A. Frasier	Mabel A. Thompson
Clarence H. Hille	Helen C. Thorburn
Richard F. Huegli	Ernest R. Tobin
Walter C. Laidlaw	Marguerite Whiting
Robert O. Loosley	F. W. Woodbury

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Series II, Suburban Council Files, 1921-1959, 1966, Boxes 3-19: Campaign records, clippings, correspondence, financial records, memorandums, minutes, published materials, reports, rosters, and other materials relating to the administration of specific Suburban Councils.

Series I
General Office Files, 1927-1957
Boxes 1-3

Campaign records, correspondence, memorandums, minutes, reports, rosters, and other materials from U.C.S. headquarters relating to the general administration of the Suburban Councils. Files are arranged alphabetically by type of record, and then chronologically.

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Campaign records, clippings, correspondence, financial records, memorandums, minutes, published materials, reports, rosters, and other materials relating to the administration of specific Suburban Councils. (Some cities or townships listed here were non-Chest areas or component parts of a Council.) Files are arranged alphabetically by type of record, and then chronologically.

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