



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Child Development Group of Mississippi collection**

1960-1972

Sc MG 265

## Summary

**Creator:** Child Development Group of Mississippi

**Title:** Child Development Group of Mississippi collection

**Date:** 1960-1972

**Size:** 2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Lois Rogers McLeod, July 1990.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** The Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM) was a community action group that developed a Head Start program for low income, primarily Black, preschool children. The records of the Child Development Group of Mississippi consist primarily of reports documenting the history and goals of the Head Start program; training manuals; financial proposals; and printed material.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Child Development Group of Mississippi collection, Sc MG 265, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Berlena Robinson, July 1990.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: hat.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photograph and Prints Division: photographs.

## Creator History

The Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM) was a community action group that developed a Head Start program for low income, primarily Black, preschool children. The CDGM Head Start program evolved from a meeting called by Dr. Tom Levin, a civil rights activist, and five other social scientists and professionals, in New York City on March 11, 1965. Levin was the first director of the CDGM's Head Start program which, in its heyday, operated eighty-seven centers throughout Mississippi with an enrollment of 6,000 children and a staff of 3,000 adults.

The CDGM received one of the largest grants in the country from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to begin operation. Within months, it became the OEO's most controversial Head Start program. It faced opposition from the Klu Klux Klan, the local press, and some members of the Black community. In addition, charges of mismanagement were leveled at the organization. In September, less than six months from the time they were funded, CDGM's funds were withdrawn by the OEO.

With the aid of a newly formed support group, the Friends of Children of Mississippi (FCM), the CDGM operated without government funding during the winter of 1965-1966. After a congressional investigation and organizational and personnel changes, the OEO provided \$5.5 million dollars for a full year's operation in fourteen out of the nineteen counties in the state. In October 1967, the OEO withdrew all funding to Head Start programs in Mississippi counties operating under the mantle of the CDGM.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The records of the Child Development Group of Mississippi collection consist primarily of lengthy and detailed reports documenting the history and goals of the Head Start program; training manuals; financial proposals; and printed material. Also present are instruction manuals and printed material for the CDGM support group, Friends of Children of Mississippi (FCM).

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American children  
African American students  
African Americans -- Civil rights  
African Americans -- Education  
Children with social disabilities -- Education  
Education -- Mississippi  
Education, Preschool  
Segregation in education

### **Names**

Child Development Group of Mississippi  
Delta Ministry of Mississippi  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America  
Project Head Start (U.S.)  
United States. Office of Economic Opportunity

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Training proposals 1965
- b. 1 f. 2 Proposal 1965
- b. 1 f. 3 Newsletters 1965-1966
- b. 1 f. 4 Proposal 1966
- Manuals
- b. 1 f. 5 Volume I: Breakthrough in Mississippi, Introduction 1966
- b. 1 f. 6 Volume I: Budget Revision 1966
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Volume II: Training Manual 1966
- b. 2 f. 1-2 Volume III: Teaching Development and Program for Children 1966
- b. 2 f. 3 Volume III: Teacher Development and Program 1966
- b. 2 f. 4-5 Volume IV: Resource Teachers Manual 1966
- b. 2 f. 6 Volume V: Social Services Division 1966
- b. 2 f. 7-8 Volume VI: Field Operators 1966
- b. 2 f. 9 Office at Economic Opportunity's decision not to re-fund CDGM
- b. 2 f. 10 CDGM Head Start proposal 1966-1967
- b. 2 f. 11 CDGM plan, Community Action Group 1966-1967
- b. 3 f. 1 CDGM Head Start proposal 1966-1967
- b. 3 f. 2 Office of Economic Opportunity's local project approval 1967
- b. 3 f. 3 CDGM staff development (comprehensive trainers) guide 1967
- b. 3 f. 4 CDGM request for grant "spinoff" program (Head Start Community Education Extension) 1967
- b. 3 f. 5 CDGM proposal 1968
- b. 3 f. 6 Suggested plans for function of Division of Administrative Services in Community Education Extension Program 1968
- Friends of Children of Mississippi (FCM)
- b. 4 f. 1 Project Head Start administrative instruction manual 1968
- b. 4 f. 2 Correspondence 1970
- b. 4 f. 3 Calendar for Committee For Disadvantaged Children (CDC) and Student Action For Voice In Education (SAVE)
- b. 4 f. 4 Newsletter 1968-1972
- b. 4 f. 5 Meetings 1968-1970
- b. 4 f. 6 Information packet 1968
- b. 4 f. 7 List of Head Start programs in Mississippi 1968
- b. 4 f. 8 Head Start diploma 1968
- b. 4 f. 9 Black Awareness report 1968
- b. 4 f. 10-11 Grant application 1969
- b. 4 f. 12-13 Proposal 1969
- b. 5 f. 1 Credit Union proposal 1970
- b. 5 f. 2-3 Proposal 1970
- b. 5 f. 4-6 Proposal 1971

- b. 6 f. 1 National Council of Churches, Delta Ministry newsletter 1965
- b. 6 f. 2 Children's publications
  - Printed material
- b. 6 f. 3 1966-1970
- b. 7 f. 1 CDGM miscellaneous 1966-1969
- b. 7 f. 2 Congress of Racial Equality printed material on civil rights 1960-1967
- b. 7 f. 3 Mississippi 1968-1970
- b. 7 f. 4 New York 1968-1970
- b. 7 f. 5 California 1970-1971
- b. 7 f. 6 Saints Junior College 1966-1968
- b. 7 f. 7 *Journal for Childhood Education*
- b. 7 f. 8 Articles on Jackson State College and Martin Luther King, Jr. shootings  
1965-1971
- b. 7 f. 9 Article on Andrew Goodman shooting 1965
- b. 7 f. 10 Clippings