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August 4, 1993

Mr. Bruce Reed
Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy
The White House
Old Executive Office Building, Room 216
Washington, DC 20500

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Judith M. Gueron, *President*

Dear Bruce:

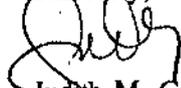
I am pleased to share with you a new MDRC report, which presents five-year results on the effectiveness of the San Diego SWIM welfare-to-work program. SWIM operated from 1985 to 1987 as part of a federally funded demonstration, and preparation of this report was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SWIM's effort to maximize participation by recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), its requirement that they participate for as long as they remained on welfare, its provision of education and training services, and its monthly participation goals anticipated the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) Program of the Family Support Act of 1988. Current discussions of welfare reform at both the federal and state levels, and the dearth of information on the long-term results of welfare-to-work programs, make the report particularly timely.

The findings indicate that SWIM succeeded in making continuing participation in employment-promoting activities a condition of receiving full AFDC benefits; produced earnings gains by hastening the employment of some welfare recipients and leading others who would not have worked to find jobs; reduced AFDC receipt by speeding the departure of some people from the welfare rolls; and resulted in substantial government savings, returning between \$2.30 and \$2.40 per dollar spent on the program. SWIM was less successful in achieving goals often stated for welfare reform efforts but not explicitly sought in this program: It did not lead to individuals obtaining higher-paying or longer-lasting jobs; did not increase measurable total family income; and did not substantially reduce the number of individuals who were jobless and receiving AFDC at the end of five years.

The results thus suggest that one of the key challenges of welfare reform will be to implement approaches that increase the employment and earnings of the most disadvantaged AFDC recipients.

I welcome your comments and reactions.

Sincerely,



Judith M. Gueron
President

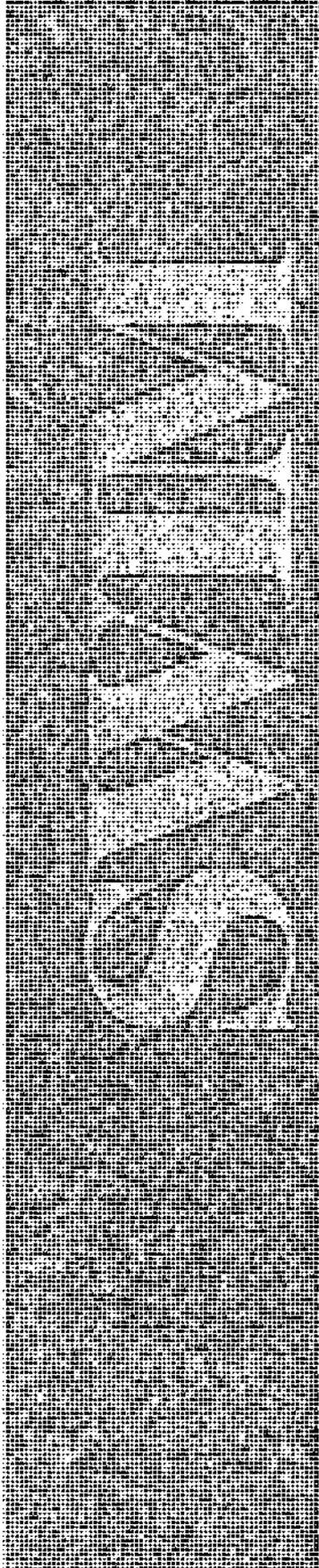
JMG/gh

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The Sanitation Work Initiative Model in San Diego:

A Five-Year Follow-up Study

Daniel Friedlander
Gayle Hamilton

July 1997

Ministry of Administration
Research Corporation

MIDRC

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July 16, 1993

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Dear Bruce:

It was good seeing you yesterday. At one point, you or Kathy asked me to characterize unemployable people on AFDC. I referred to a study on mandatory graduates from Supported Work, i.e., people who spent a year or eighteen months working in a subsidized, structured work program but were nonetheless unable to make the transition to unsubsidized work. I thought you would find the report (enclosed) of interest.

Take care, and regards to Kathi and Carol.

Best wishes,



Judith M. Gueron

JMG/yv
Enc.

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AFTER SUPPORTED WORK:

Post-Program Interviews
with a Sample
of AFDC Participants

Martha Ritter
Sandra K. Davziger

MINNAPACK DEMONSTRATION
NEEDS REEVALUATION

NOVEMBER 1983