

MPA Funding, 1971-79: No Golden Age For Nonprofit Funding

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Research Question

Did funding contribute to the early organizational development of the Mental Patients Association? Did their funding experience differ from today? Can it inform modern recommendations to government?



Research Findings

I expected to find that the MPA had developed in a golden age of flexible funding programs that could serve as models for today. Instead, I was struck by many parallels to current funding issues.

Federal Job Creation Grants

CYC, OFY, LIP & LEAP provided flexible funding for the first 5 years for MPA staffing and overhead. BUT they did not provide ongoing operating funds, leaving the MPA's innovative peer support programs & growing client base in the lurch.

CMHC Mortgages

MPA was able to secure mortgages to purchase properties in their 1st 2 years of existence. BUT CMHC stopped mortgaging existing buildings for social housing in late 1974 and got out of social housing altogether in the 1990s.

Provincial Gov't Funding

To secure provincial operating funds, the MPA was forced to give up its participatory governance structure and adjust criteria for its residence program, making it less autonomous and less empowering for members and clients.