

slow rate, some 1,200 public assistance recipients have been upgraded to the eighth grade within the first year and a half of the program's operation—and in March of this year there were 63—recipients enrolled in the elementary program and 2,000 enrolled in high schools working toward a high school diploma.

This program is one of the least expensive ways in which we can help people function in a socially and economically independent manner. This basic educational training is being given to public assistance recipients by the department at a cost of less than \$6 per month per person. This is astonishing when it is remembered that the program stresses quality, that it uses only certified teachers, and that our public assistance recipients are promoted on the basis of tested, grade-level achievements. These students are not passed along from one grade to the next if they cannot do the work.

It is estimated that in Cook County it would cost \$1,300,000 to place 20,000 adult students in class for a year. This is a small sum of money to spend on rehabilitation when compared with the \$184 million spent in Cook County in 1963 for public assistance.

The department also conducts educational programs to reduce dropouts and has recently conducted an electronic teaching experiment among the illiterates which shows genuine promise.

The training programs developed by the Cook County department of public aid with the cooperation of private companies and public agencies are having dramatic results. More than 800 men have been training to become cabdrivers. They and their large families have left the relief rolls. Many of these trainees learned their reading and writing in the literacy courses, and now they can make out their trip sheets, read their street guides, read street signs, and make change. Other programs include training for gas station attendants, domestic service, practical nursing, nurses' aids, licensed foster home operators, maintenance men and janitors, food service, and maid service.

Through this wide variety of training programs and through intensive job finding and job placement efforts, more than 14,000 relief recipients were placed in or secured jobs in 1963. Almost all of them required extensive counseling and preparation. It is through efforts of this kind that from a peak reached in May 1962, relief costs have been reduced by more than \$2½ million a month, and relief volume has declined by 23,000 people.

The department is also conducting an extensive program of homemaking classes that covers basic information concerning money management, meal planning and preparation, housekeeping techniques, sewing, and first aid. In other classes they teach recipients of public assistance how to teach other recipients in these areas of homemaking.

Both labor and industry are also participating in the war on unemployment and poverty in our city. Labor is supporting fully the activities of other agencies and is addressing itself to an improved and expanded apprenticeship program.

The committee for full employment, sponsored by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, has a twofold purpose—to minimize unemployment in Chicago and to promote equal employment opportunities throughout the business community. This committee has begun a study to determine the dimensions of the problems in unemployment and employment, and is conducting a manpower survey to locate job openings.

Some of the objectives of this committee are—

To increase job opportunities for youth, with special emphasis on the problems and needs of disadvantaged youth;

To increase the economic growth rate of the Chicago area through aggressive economic development as the basis for long-range strong employment; and

The promotion of new industries by both Negroes and whites to increase growth in personal service industries and provide additional employment for those lacking skills.

These are some of the major programs which are underway, and there are many others which are being undertaken in education, in strengthening the family unit, in youth welfare, and other vital programs. For example, more than 4,000 adults and children are being taught by volunteer tutors in 71 classes being held currently throughout the city.

The mayor's committee on new residents—which is a division of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations—reported that 750 adults are being taught by 65 tutors, and 3,400 children by 1,500 tutors from 31 colleges, churches, synagogues, high schools, sororities, and alumni groups.