

3. Their other policies and actions of metropolitanwide or interjurisdictional significance.

As President Johnson said in his recent message to the Congress on housing and urban development programs:

The powerful forces of urban growth threaten to overwhelm efforts to achieve orderly development. A metropolitan plan should be an instrument for shaping sound urban growth—not a neglected document.

This program would provide valuable and much-needed incentive for effectuating such plans.

This program, which is an outgrowth of existing Federal urban development policies, could vastly influence for the better the living environment of many of our people. Today, 125 million Americans—two-thirds of our total population—live in metropolitan areas. Twenty years from now we will have added, according to conservative estimates, 54 million people to our metropolitan population, the great bulk of them in suburban areas. This is the equivalent of adding 5 New Yorks or 27 Washingtons.

Federal, State, and local governments will be spending, over this period, billions of dollars for basic services for these areas—for schools, highways, and other forms of transportation, parks, sewer and water systems, and other community facilities. Careful and effective planning can greatly reduce the capital costs of these services, and can in addition make great contributions to our goal of a suitable living environment for every American family.

The programs supplemented by this bill serve some of the major needs of the Nation's growing metropolitan communities.

Transportation facilities, water and sewer systems, and recreation and open-space areas all knit together metropolitan regions and help to shape their growth. But if planned inconsistently, they can distort that growth and one project can greatly reduce the benefits expected from another.

The supplemental aid provided under this title is, therefore, directly keyed to critical types of development projects. These are also the projects for which there has already been Federal recognition of need and a commitment to assist in meeting that need.

The proposed supplemental grants will reward State and local government initiative toward higher levels of planned urban development and coordinated action. In areas where the higher standards called for under this new program cannot yet be achieved, the program will not stop needed assistance under the basic grant programs.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, will, of course, work closely with the other Federal departments and agencies whose program areas are being supplemented to provide Federal leadership and coordination toward more orderly metropolitan development. This is one of the principal tasks which the Congress has assigned to this new Department.

It is expected that about a dozen metropolitan areas, encompassing several hundred local communities, might become eligible for supplementary grants during the first year. Accordingly, the administration is recommending a first-year program level of \$25 million.

With continued encouragement under this program, about 75 metropolitan areas, having an aggregate population of around 60 million, might qualify for supplemental grants by the end of 5 years.