

information centers could make valuable contributions to comprehensive planning, coordinated action, and sound management in towns and cities of all sizes throughout the Nation.

Such information centers could be of particular assistance in meeting statewide or metropolitanwide urban problems. Centralized information systems would be particularly important for the growing number of States and larger cities showing interest in applying systems analysis, program budgeting, and cost-benefit analysis to the management of their activities.

Of course, private enterprise and investment, as well as public endeavors, will be greatly benefited by the provision of easily accessible information about urban needs, growth, and change.

The centers would also reinforce and assist efforts, such as those being carried on under title VI of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, to make information and advice regarding local public assistance programs readily available to those who need it.

The required State or metropolitan information programs

The required State or metropolitan program would in most cases include both the establishment and continued operation of an information center. However, if a State or metropolitan area already had such a center, the program could be directed toward the improvement of its facilities and services.

In any case, a program would have to involve substantially increased or improved activities on the part of the applicant State or metropolitan agency. Also, the applicant would have to adequately justify its choice of program activities in terms of specified urban physical, social, and economic information needs and objectives, including comparisons of cost and usefulness where appropriate.

Metropolitan area information centers

An information center for a metropolitan area could be established and operated by an organization or body composed of public officials which the Secretary determines to be representative of the political jurisdictions encompassing the metropolitan area. Where no such organization exists and can qualify for a grant under this title, a center could be established and operated by a public body or agency (1) designated by the governing body of that political jurisdiction within the area which contains the largest population, according to the most recent decennial census, and (2) concurred in by other political jurisdictions which, together with the designating jurisdiction, contain at least two-thirds of the population of the area. This would assure that the centers will meet the needs of entire metropolitan areas.

Similarly, such a center would be required to be directed primarily to the provision of information services of general metropolitanwide utility, or of particular utility to the communities within that metropolitan area.

State information centers

An information center (or centers) established by a State under this title would be required to be directed primarily toward providing informational services of general statewide utility, or of particularly utility to communities not within metropolitan areas for which information centers had been established under this title. Services of "statewide" utility would include informational services of utility to the State government itself and also services of utility generally to urban areas throughout the State. The authority for additional informational services to communities outside metropolitan areas would permit States to provide to such communities more specialized informational services comparable to those which could be provided by a metropolitan area center to communities within that area.

Amount of Federal grant

A grant under the proposed Federal program could pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of the activities carried on by an applicant under its approved program during 1 year. However, a grant could not assist activities receiving assistance under any other Federal grant or subsidy program, nor could it assist in assembling data or providing information to be used primarily in the day-to-day operations of State or local public bodies.

Program coordination

An assisted State or metropolitan program would be required to be closely coordinated with related Federal, State, and local information activities—including those receiving assistance under section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954,