

We urge county and other local officials to consider the formation of such voluntary cooperation groups whose objectives would be to—

- (1) Discuss and identify problems;
- (2) Establish a consensus;
- (3) Cooperate in implementing agreed-upon regionwide policies; and
- (4) Support appropriate legislation.

INCENTIVE IN STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE JOINT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS

Numerous services performed by local government are best provided when undertaken on a territorial basis broader than the individual unit of local government. Experience in such fields as open space land acquisition, public health, urban planning, and airports has shown that grant programs can be designed to achieve more effective local services through joint undertakings by more than one unit of local government. The National Association of Counties believes that State and Federal grant programs, where appropriate, should contain provisions to encourage joint undertakings among local units of government.

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION NEEDED

We recommend that in order to strengthen county and regional planning that applications from local governments within a metropolitan area for Federal grants-in-aid for airport construction, waste treatment works, urban renewal, public housing, hospital construction, and urban highways be reviewed and commented on by a legally constituted planning agency with responsibility for comprehensive planning for the metropolitan area or region and that such planning agencies be composed of or responsible to the elected local government officials of the metropolitan area.

I would stress, however, that the need for areawide cooperation is not limited to standard metropolitan statistical areas. Financial incentives for cooperation should also be provided for other appropriate areas including the community development districts which were recently proposed by President Johnson to encourage cooperation among rural areas. Additionally, we would urge that it be made clear that notwithstanding the increased emphasis this legislation would place on metropolitan planning, it could in no way be interpreted as meaning the need or requirement to eliminate the ability of the participating general units of local government to plan for many other activities which are the primary or sole concern of these individual local governments. In view of the importance and objectives of the legislation, we would suggest that the \$25 million recommended by the administration for the first year of this program is unrealistically small, especially in view of the \$400 million recommended for the companion demonstration city program's first year of operation.

TITLE IV—GRANTS FOR URBAN INFORMATION CENTERS

In the January issue of the American County Government, NACO's executive director, Bernard F. Hillenbrand, editorialized on the subject of a "County Urban Adviser and Federal Aid." I request that a