

steady, gainful employment; on-the-job training opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labor; adult vocational training; extensive public educational opportunities for all age groups; an environment for improved living standards; and an opportunity to participate in a broader social and economic society, where they may become self-sustaining citizens.

2. Operation

Wholly a direct Federal operation conducted in agencies and area offices and in seven large urban cities. Technical supervision is provided to the agencies by the area offices, and to the area offices by the Washington headquarters office. Washington headquarters office directly supervises the seven large urban cities operations.

Upon acceptance of an application for employment assistance service, the Indian participant is provided a grant of funds which is to financially assist him and/or his family until he is employed, and receives his first paycheck. If participant is to pursue a course of vocational training, the grant is to financially assist him and/or his family through the period of training and the first month after completion of training. These grants are to be used for transportation to destination points, maintenance costs including housing, supplemental furniture items, and personal and health needs and school tuition and related costs. Employment assistance staff at destination points provide guidance services in community living, housing, employment, and training.

3. History

The employment assistance program is an outgrowth of the job placement program carried out in cooperation with State and Federal employment services which began on the Navajo Reservation in the late 1940's and focused largely upon seasonal employment in agriculture and on the railroads. During this early period some Indians were given help in moving permanently away from the reservation and in establishing themselves in large cities. On the basis of this experience, the Bureau in 1952 conducted a national program of relocation for employment of Indian volunteers. This embraced all tribes that come within the sphere of the Bureau's responsibilities. In 1956, the program was given additional impetus when Congress enacted a law (Public Law 959 of the 84th Congress) authorizing the Bureau to provide Indians, chiefly between the ages of 18 and 35, with vocational training, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship training. Lack of skill had been a serious limiting factor in the early employment assistance activities, and the 1956 enactment was thus a major milestone in the gradual development of the present program.

4. Level of operations. (See table 1.)

Program: Employment assistance for Indians.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of the Interior; Bureau of Indian Affairs.