

7. Coordination and cooperation

The essence of the Rural Community Development Service operations are coordination and cooperation with all programs relating to economic and human resource improvement in rural areas. It is the function of the Service to work with all agencies in the Department of Agriculture and with agencies in all of the other departments of the Federal branch of the Government having services and technical assistance of value to rural people.

The Rural Community Development Service will develop with other agencies, both inside and outside the Department of Agriculture, policies and procedures which will improve the effectiveness of the programs as they relate to rural communities. At the State level, the Rural Community Development Service representatives will work with the State heads of all Federal organizations and with agencies of the State governments to promote the better utilization of services and technical assistance by eligible rural people. In the areas within the States, and in counties and communities, arrangements will be made for representatives of the agencies of the Department of Agriculture to help in making available to rural people the services of all Federal, State, and local agencies.

In each rural county of the Nation, there is a technical action panel made up of the local representatives of the Federal agencies of the Department of Agriculture, together with representatives of State and local agencies. The mission of this technical action panel is to provide assistance to rural area development committees made up of local leaders. The mission of the local leaders is to appraise the needs of their particular area and determine those things which can be done to improve the income of the area and to provide needed human resource improvement.

Rural areas development committees, aided by the technical action panels, work closely with nonprofit organizations and institutions in the local community and also with business enterprises and other organizations. Through these, as well as through government services, means are found for economic growth and improvement, for the establishment of better community facilities, and for human resource development through such things as training, improved medical attention, better care for the aged, etc.

8. Laws and regulations

Authorization for the program is contained in Secretary's memorandum No. 1570. Language recognizing the agency and providing a base for appropriations is contained in the appropriations act for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1965-66, Public Law 89-316.

PART II. DATA BEARING ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAM

9. Economic effects

The rural areas development program as assisted by the Rural Community Development Service addresses itself to the disparity of income between rural and urban people. The median income of all rural people in 1960 was \$4,381 and that of urban people was \$6,166.

It is the objective of the program to remove this disparity as rapidly as possible. Upward change in income of rural people will come in part through increased earnings and higher productivity of workers.