

Office of State Technical Services

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

To promote commerce and encourage economic growth by supporting State and interstate programs to place the findings of science usefully in the hands of American enterprise.

In this program, the Federal Government provides matching funds to the States to assist in providing activities or programs which enable business and industrial establishments to organize and use scientific and engineering information more effectively.

2. Operation

The key to the State Technical Services Act is local leadership, local initiative, local resources and local participation. Federal funds, on a matching basis will stimulate and encourage the establishment or expansion of local institutions specifically designed to meet the needs of the local economy. The qualified universities and colleges in the States will play an important role in the program.

To participate in the program, each State will designate an agency to coordinate and administer the annual technical services programs within the State and to develop a five-year plan which shall outline the technological and economic conditions of the State, including both industrial potential and identification of industrial problems. The designated agency will also prepare and submit an annual technical services program which identifies specific methods for accomplishing the objectives of the five-year plan, and includes a detailed budget, procedures for administration, and indicates specific responsibilities. These technical services will be provided through qualified educational and other institutions in the State. Typical programs will probably include: technical information services, a technical referral service, and workshops or seminars in advanced technology suitable for local industry. A planning grant of up to \$25,000 is authorized to each designated agency for each of the first three fiscal years. This grant does not have to be matched by State funds.

Plans and programs must be approved by the Secretary of Commerce and matched at least dollar for dollar by State or other non-Federal funds. The amount of matching funds for which each State will be eligible will also be determined by the Secretary of Commerce on the basis of regulations published in the Federal Register.

In addition to the funds administered through the State technical service programs, the Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to fund, on a matching basis, programs which he determines are of special merit or for additional programs which he determines are necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act.

3. History

The State Technical Services Act of 1965, Public Law 89-182, was signed into law by President Johnson on September 14, 1965. A supplemental appropriation for fiscal 1966 of \$3.5 million was approved by the Congress. An Office of State Technical Services has been established in the Department of Commerce which will report to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology.