

These amendments also initiated use of Federal grant funds to support establishment of rehabilitation facilities and workshops, i.e., alteration of existing buildings and equipment, and—in the case of rehabilitation facilities—initial staffing.

The next major forward step was the 1965 Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments, which had three major emphases:

1. The new provisions in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments, in concert, are designed to put the public vocational rehabilitation program on a scale of operation which it should attain in this coming decade.

2. The new provisions aim to strengthen the program's ability to tackle and solve the problems of rehabilitating the very difficult cases, the severely disabled.

3. These provisions also are drawn to make possible a direct drive to build more rehabilitation facilities and workshops and, equally important, to strengthen those now operating.

More specifically, the 1965 revisions of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act provide for:

- (a) The broadening of the base of the Federal-State program to take into the program not only more of the disabled, but also a greater spread of the severe disabilities.

- (b) The liberalization of Federal financial support of certain portions of the program to match State money more favorably with Federal funds so as to put State vocational rehabilitation agencies in better position to secure State appropriations for their programs.

- (c) A multifaceted, comprehensive program of grants to improve and strengthen the workshops of the Nation.

- (d) A rehabilitation facilities construction program directed primarily to construction of vocationally oriented facilities.

- (e) A concerted effort to remove and prevent architectural barriers which impede the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

- (f) Special projects grants to allow quick, responsive focus on particular program areas, such as the mentally retarded, the victims of heart disease, cancer and stroke, cerebral palsy, and similar groups of the disabled, and for statewide planning.

- (g) Extended training of professional rehabilitation staff.

- (h) The establishment of intramural programs of rehabilitation research and data assembling and dissemination.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration also has new responsibility under the 1965 medicare provisions, which included new authority making funds available to the State vocational rehabilitation agencies to pay for rehabilitation services for OASDI beneficiaries and restore them to work and to effect savings for the trust funds.

The Correctional Rehabilitation Study Act of 1965, provides authority for the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration to grant Federal funds to help finance a 3-year coordinated study and report on manpower needs in the correctional field.

4. *Level of operations.* (See tables 1.1 through 1.13.)

Because of the different activities encompassed in the vocational rehabilitation program, the answer to this question has been divided into segments in order to give a clearer picture of the total program.