

local public welfare and vocational rehabilitation personnel in cooperative planning and services. Liaison on operations and policies: Active staff liaison includes consultation in handling of operational questions and in development of policies affecting vocational rehabilitation of public assistance recipients.

Office of Education: Both the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and the Office of Education recognize the fact that the two agencies have a joint responsibility in seeing that handicapped children and youth are provided necessary rehabilitation services. This cooperative relationship has been strengthened by legislative programs affecting both agencies. The Vocational Education Amendments of 1963 provide additional and improved training programs for both youth and adults, including the disabled, in need of vocational skills. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 provides among other things for the identification of many more handicapped children and thus sets the stage for increasing cooperation between vocational rehabilitation and special education programs.

At the present time, interagency conferences are being held to establish written guidelines so as to emphasize and blueprint procedures to effect an extension of special education-vocational rehabilitation programs at the State and local boards of education and the State divisions of vocational rehabilitation to incorporate joint programming as a regular and ongoing policy, and to extend these services to all handicapped youth.

A summary of regional reports relative to vocational rehabilitation-special education cooperative programs for the first quarter of fiscal year 1965 indicates that 33 States involving some 287 individual school districts have such an agreement. Planned expansion should result in new programs in an additional six States in the next few months and in all States in the near future.

U.S. Public Health Service, military rejectees: Utilizing funds transferred to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and the Public Health Service jointly developed and implemented a program of screening, referral, and followup services to young men rejected for medical reasons at the 73 Armed Forces examining stations. The program was designed by State and Federal health and rehabilitation personnel based on experience gathered in pilot projects sponsored by both VRA and PHS. A joint staff, composed of personnel from both agencies, is responsible for orientation and training of field personnel and for program surveillance.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration is also participating with the Department of Defense, the Selective Service System, the Department of Labor, and the Public Health Service in an Interdepartmental Committee on Military Rejectees. This committee was formed to coordinate all Federal programs for young men rejected for military service.

Mentally retarded: Vocational Rehabilitation Administration collaborates with the Division of Hospital and Medical Facilities, Public Health Service, in implementing the grant programs authorized under Public Law 88-164 for the construction of university-affiliated facilities for the mentally retarded. This has involved formal review of grant applications and participation in site visits to university applicants.