

At both the regional and central office levels, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration staff cooperate with the Public Health Service's Mental Retardation Branch in implementing the program of grants to States for comprehensive planning in mental retardation authorized under Public Law 88-156 and the Social Security Amendments of 1965. VRA personnel serve on the committees which review the grant applications, and provide critical comment on those aspects of the plans which concern rehabilitation. VRA also joins in site visits to selected States to assist PHS in consulting with State officials on planning.

**Migrant labor:** The Public Health Service initially convened this committee to develop improved interagency programs to serve the migrant worker and his family. Later, as the Migrant Health Branch was developed to administer the migrant health grants this group served in a consultant and supportive capacity. VRA staff have had a continuing involvement on this advisory group and have demonstrated by research and demonstration projects the vocational rehabilitation needs and medical deficits of migrants. State vocational rehabilitation agencies have been encouraged wherever possible to provide vocational rehabilitation services to migrants.

**Social Security Administration:** The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration maintains a continuous liaison with Social Security Administration in two program areas. The first relates to the SSA disability insurance program which was established by the Social Security Amendments of 1954, and under which State vocational rehabilitation agencies (in all but five States) by agreement with SSA make determinations of disability in the cases of individuals applying for disability benefits. All persons applying for disability benefits by law, also must be referred for necessary vocational rehabilitation services. The purpose of the liaison function is to insure coordination in relationships with the State agencies in the interests of advancing Federal program objectives in both of these activities.

The second program, as authorized by the Social Security Amendments of 1965, relates to payments from the trust funds for the cost of providing vocational rehabilitation services to social security disability beneficiaries.

2. In research: An informal system of communication is maintained between relevant parts of VRA, the National Institutes of Health and the Bureau of State Services of the Public Health Service. The abstracts of projects on rehabilitation topics are routinely supplied to the study sections of VRA by the Science Information Exchange which also supplies VRA abstracts to relevant study sections in NIH. In this way the same or similar projects submitted to different study sections are identified and sources of overlap discovered.

In addition, there is regular contact between the various VRA study sections, the PHS Bureau of State Services, and NIH study sections, including those on cardiovascular disease, health services research, neurology, general medicine, and surgery. The executive secretaries of NIH study sections are always invited to appropriate VRA study section meetings. Also invited are the Medical Director of the Neurological and Sensory Disease Service Branch of the Bureau of State Services; the Chief of Research Grants of the Division of Chronic Diseases, Bureau of State Services; and the Chief of Grants Programming and Coordination in the same Division. The VRA study