

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PLANNING

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

Program consists of two elements: activity to encourage better short-and-long range planning for health-related environmental facilities in urban areas, and activity to improve the healthfulness of the residential environment primarily through systematic enforcement by neighborhoods of hygienic standards in minimum and healthful housing codes.

2. Operation

Program operates from regional offices with headquarters supervision. Technical assistance and training are provided (a) to State and local health agencies, (b) to corresponding public works and planning officials, and (c) to other related inspection-enforcement personnel at the State and local level.

3. History

Environmental health planning activity has been in progress 6 years. About 25 medium-sized urban areas have been assisted in locally conducted studies of their planning needs for water, sewerage, housing, solid wastes, air pollution control, etc. The program has resulted in better understanding of facility needs, environmental health planning and provision of public works and public services for future urban requirements of what are often multijurisdictional areas. The activity involves demonstrations in urban areas selected by State health departments, and in some instances training of personnel from outside the survey area so they may be prepared to do similar surveys in their home communities.

Residential environment hygiene activities are just beginning after a 10-year lapse. Emphasis will be on (a) research to fill gaps in knowledge of housing-health relationships focusing on health-related criteria for two levels of standards based on thresholds of tolerance of healthy persons and families and thresholds of those predisposed to some form of ill health, (b) development of model standards and manuals and technical assistance on their administration, and (c) training for local housing inspectors.

4. Level of operations. (See table 1.)

Program: Urban environmental health planning
Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Public Health Service; Bureau of Public State Services—Environmental Health; Division of Environmental Engineering and Food Protection.

TABLE 1.—Level of operations or performance, fiscal years 1964–67

Measure and unit	Fiscal year 1964	Fiscal year 1965	Fiscal year 1966 estimate	Fiscal year 1967 estimate
(a) Technical assistance in field studies (communities).....	6	10	14	18
Training courses (persons).....	500	650	1,600	2,100
(b) Applicants or participants:				
Local communities.....	6	10	14	18
Individuals.....	500	650	1,600	2,100
(c) Federal finances (see table for total program of the Division).				
(d) Additional expenditures.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
(e) Number of Federal employees.....	9	9	18	24
(f) Non-Federal personnel (State and local agency employees).....	375	550	2 900	2 900

¹ Not available.² State and local personnel operating within the scope of this program.