

Welfare Administration

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BUREAU OF FAMILY SERVICES—GRANTS TO STATES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

The purpose of Federal grants-in-aid for public assistance is to help the States establish and maintain statewide programs under which families and individuals may receive financial assistance to enable them to secure the necessities of life; and social services to help them to maintain and strengthen family life and to develop their maximum potential for self-support and self-care.

2. Operation

Grants to States are based on State plans submitted for each program, old-age assistance, medical assistance for the aged, aid to families with dependent children, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled. These plans must be approved by the Welfare Administration as meeting the requirements of the Social Security Act. To be approved, the State plan must be in operation throughout the State. The State must share in the cost, and a single State agency must administer the plan or supervise administration by local units of government. The aid must be given in money directly to the needy person or to his judicially appointed legal representative, except that the State agency may pay doctors, hospitals, and other suppliers of medical care for medical services they provide to needy recipients. The State agency must provide, if requested, a fair hearing for any person whose application for aid is denied or whose payment is decreased or stopped. These requirements of the Federal law are intended to insure that Federal money is used equitably and for the purpose for which Congress appropriates it.