

1. To help communities integrate their specific public works plans with overall community planning for future growth; to adjust planning to community financial abilities and prospects; to aid in the selection of proper sites and timely acquisition of land; to give residents and local businesses a chance to orient their future operations and plans;

2. To encourage States, counties, municipalities, and other local public agencies to maintain a reservoir of planned public works which can be placed under construction within a short time, particularly when national or local economic conditions make such action desirable; and

3. To promote economy and efficiency in planning and building public works.

2. Operation

The program is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development through regional offices located in New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Worth, San Francisco, Seattle, and San Juan, P.R. Applications are received and processed in the regional offices by legal, engineering, and finance technical staffs for general compliance with legal and policy requirements. The review at this time is directed toward the need for the facility, the legal basis of the applicant to plan and construct the contemplated public facility, the financial feasibility of the proposed project, and the likelihood that construction will actually be undertaken within the estimated period. The proposed project must be consistent with related State, regional, and local planning, and the applicant is encouraged to assess fully the priority of the project in relation to the total requirements of the community for planned public works.

Following the approval of the application for an advance, the community has a consulting engineer or architect prepare the plans for which the advance will be made. Plans thus completed are given detailed technical review by the community and by the State, regional, or local authorities as required. Approved plans are submitted to the HUD regional office for review as to completeness and consistency with the terms of the community's agreement with the Government. If approved, payment of the planning advance is made to the applicant, who in turn pays the consultant engineer or architect for services performed in preparation of the plans.

3. History

Section 702 of the Housing Act of 1954 established a Public Works Planning Fund, a revolving fund, with an initial authorization for appropriations amounting to \$10 million. The authorization was augmented in legislation enacted in 1955, 1961, 1964, and 1965 and presently amounts to \$128 million.

Against this authorization, appropriations totaling \$83 million have been enacted by the Congress. Thus the unappropriated balance of the statutory authorization is \$45 million (see answer to No. 8).

Cumulative net planning advances amounting to \$105.8 million were approved through the end of fiscal year 1965. The construction cost of public facilities to be built upon these plans is estimated at over \$6 billion.

Fiscal year 1966 will be the 11th full year of operation under the current program of advances for public works planning. An analysis