

The act established the U.S. Housing Authority. Activities of the Federal Security Agency (subsistence homesteads and green towns) were also transferred to it.

The low-rent public housing program was barely underway when World War II led to the necessity of providing first "defense housing" and later "war housing." For this purpose, low-rent housing was temporarily diverted to the needs of defense industry employees. New programs of "war housing" (especially Lanham Act housing under Public Law 849) were undertaken by the U.S. Housing Authority reconstituted as the Federal Public Housing Authority in 1942. Other war housing projects were transferred from other Federal agencies, such as the Federal Works Administration, the Defense Homes Corporation, the U.S. Maritime Commission, the Navy Department, the Mutual Homes Ownership Agency, the Public Buildings Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the War Department, and the War Foods Administration, when the FPHA was created. In the war emergency local housing authorities were utilized to construct and manage public housing for war effort related purposes. For many local authorities this constituted their first public housing experience; for all local authorities it provided valuable experience that could be drawn upon in meeting postwar needs and emergencies.

The end of World War II brought the problems of conversion of permanent housing to low-rent occupancy, and disposal of emergency housing and permanent housing not desired for low-rent use by the localities. The construction of temporary housing for veterans took place in the immediate postwar period. In 1949 the low-rent public housing needs of the Nation were recognized by the Congress in the passage of the United States Housing Act of 1949, which authorized a new program of 810,000 federally aided low-rent units. However, the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in 1950 again led to imposition of severe restrictions on the low-rent program.

A series of amendments to the United States Housing Act of 1937, and of program limitations by Presidential directive and appropriation act limitations, followed from 1950 through 1964. Their impact ranged from the limitation upon and the outright prohibition of new programing in 1 year to permission to proceed with 100,000 units (over a 3-year period) in the Housing Act of 1961. The Housing Act of 1964 authorized 37,000 units, and the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 authorized 240,000 units of low-rent housing over a 4-year period. Ability to utilize new methods of providing such housing through leasing and acquisition with or without rehabilitation of existing structures was enhanced through that legislation.

In recent years efforts have been made to serve overlooked segments of our population. Chief among these new approaches have been those serving the elderly, for providing housing for the American Indians on their reservations, the needs of individuals displaced by public actions, and the needs of the disabled and handicapped.

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

Program: Public Housing Administration.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Housing and Urban Development.