

Federal contributions may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including, but not limited to, plant, equipment, and services.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations establishing objective criteria pursuant to which assistance may be reduced below 80 per centum for such community action programs or components as have received assistance under section 533 for a period prescribed in such regulations.

(c) The expenditures or contributions made from non-Federal sources for a community action program or component thereof shall be in addition to the aggregate expenditures or contributions from non-Federal sources which were being made for similar purposes prior to the extension of Federal assistance. The requirement imposed by the preceding sentence shall be subject to such regulations as the Secretary may adopt and promulgate establishing objective criteria for determinations covering situations where a literal application of such requirement would result in unnecessary hardship or otherwise be inconsistent with the purposes sought to be achieved.

PARTICIPATION OF STATE AGENCIES

SEC. 537. (a) The Secretary shall establish procedures which will facilitate effective participation of the States in community action programs including, but not limited to, consultation with appropriate State agencies on the development, conduct, and administration of such programs.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to make grants to, or to contract with, appropriate State agencies for the payment of the expenses of such agencies in providing technical assistance to communities in developing, conducting and administering community action programs.

(c) In carrying out the provisions of this title, no contract, agreement, grant, loan, or other assistance shall be made with, or provided to, any State or local public agency or any private institution or organization for the purpose of carrying out any program, project, or other activity within a State unless a plan setting forth such proposed contract, agreement, grant, loan, or other assistance has been submitted to the Governor of the State, and such plan has not been disapproved by the Governor within thirty days of such submission, or, if so disapproved, has been reconsidered by the Secretary and found by him to be fully consistent with the provisions and in furtherance of the purposes of this title: *Provided, however*, That this section shall not apply to contracts, agreements, grants, loans; or other assistance to any institution of higher education in existence on the date of the approval of this Act.

QUALIFIED COMMUNITY ACTION BOARDS

SEC. 538. The Secretary shall certify the name and area served by each board which is a community action board as defined in section 511 and which he finds to be competent to carry out the functions assigned qualified community action boards by any provision of this Act.

PART E—VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SEC. 541. The purpose of this part is to allow individual Americans to participate in a personal way in this opportunity crusade, by voluntarily assisting in the support of one or more needy children, in a program coordinated with city or county social welfare agencies.

AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH INFORMATION CENTER

SEC. 542. (a) In order to carry out the purposes of this part, the Secretary is authorized to establish a section within the Department to act as an information and coordination center to encourage voluntary assistance for deserving and needy children.

(b) The Secretary shall appoint an administrator whose full-time duty shall be to give effect to this program.

(c) It is the intent of the Congress that the section established pursuant to this part shall act solely as an information and coordination center and that nothing in this part shall be construed as interfering with the jurisdiction of State and local welfare agencies with respect to programs for needy children.