

3256 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

tion, and Welfare (HEW) to operate experimental or demonstration work-experience programs, "to expand the opportunities for constructive work experience and other needed training available to persons who are unable to support or care for themselves or their families. In carrying out this purpose, the Director shall make maximum use of the programs available under the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, as amended, and Vocational Educational Act of 1963."²

ADMINISTRATION

HEW delegates the administration of the Work Experience and Training Program (WE and T) to the respective states who administer it within HEW's guidelines. In Kentucky, the Department of Economic Security, Division of Public Assistance, administers the WE and T Program. The administrative hierarchy is composed of, one program supervisor, several regional supervisors, at least one program supervisor in each county, a case supervisor for each five caseworkers and a caseworker for every 60 participants.³

There were about 6,000 participants in the Kentucky WE and T Program in the autumn of 1966 when this study was conducted. Nineteen counties were included in the program, all in Eastern Kentucky. Each county had a quota or number of participants which was based on the percentage of unemployment in that county according to the Department of Economic Security's records. The WE and T Program began initially in nine counties in January 1965, in May 1965 it was expanded to include ten additional counties, as indicated in Table I.1. In fiscal 1966, HEW granted \$17.5 million to the Kentucky Division of Public Assistance to cover 100 per cent of the costs of the WE and T Program.⁴

INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the WE and T Program, an individual must meet certain eligibility requirements of the Division of Public Assistance. These include that the applicant must:

- A. Be the parent of a child or children under 18 years of age.
- B. Enroll his school-age child or children in school,
- C. Be under 65 years of age.
- D. Meet the definition of unemployed parent, ie., be the father or step-father of a needy child or the male household member occupying a paternal role in the family. Furthermore, he must:
 1. Have been without regular full-time employment for 90 days prior to the date of application;
 2. Be ineligible and not receiving unemployment insurance benefits;
 3. Have not been determined to be physically incapacitated;
 4. Not have a job lined up for the future; and
 5. Have not refused to accept employment or suitable training.
- E. Be a resident of a county covered by the Program,
- F. Be ineligible for, and not receiving, any form of public assistance, except food stamps,
- G. Be able to benefit from participation in the Program, and
- H. Be in need, that is, in addition to meeting the above unemployment criteria, the applicant must not have cash on hand, stocks, bonds, savings, or land noncontiguous to his homestead whose total value exceeds \$1,000.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

In order to apply, an individual must submit relevant information about himself and his family to the local office of the Department of Economic Security. This information is verified through a check with other agencies and a home visit by a caseworker. In addition, he must enter his name on the list of those seeking employment, he must do this every 60 days to remain eligible for, and in, the WE and T program.

A chronological listing of the applicants for the WE and T Program is maintained in each local (county) office. Applicants are processed in this order.

² *Ibid.*, p. 20.

³ Descriptive details of the Kentucky Program are mainly from conversations, correspondence, and informational materials supplied by Mr. Ralph Wells, supervisor, WE and T Program, Division of Public Assistance, Department of Economic Security, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Mr. Ralph Wells.