

3258 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

is effectively removed. President Johnson has proposed that this "100 percent on tax on the earnings of those on public assistance" be eliminated, and "payment formulas" be enacted which would allow those on public assistance to keep part of what they earn.⁵

CALCULATION OF HOURS SPENT IN WORK EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Work experience is defined for program purposes as progressive participation in actual work projects which will contribute to the participant's employability.⁶ When work projects are supervised by local government agencies, they are intended to benefit the public. Such projects include highway or landscape beautification programs, road and bridge building, and providing manpower to local government agencies.

Training encompasses: basic adult education; high school equivalency; vocational training; and on-the-job training with private employers. Basic adult education is required of all participants who have not completed the eighth grade, and classes are operated in all counties in the WE and T Program. Local school boards receive funds from Title II-B of the EOA for this purpose. Participants may elect to go on to high school equivalency or regular high school classes, or they may attend vocational or special training such as Manpower Development and Training Act classes. Vocational and on-the-job training are full-time activities; however, participants enrolled in such activities may receive time off to attend any educational classes in which they may wish to enroll. Each individual's situation is considered within the context of available training facilities in his county, and assignments made accordingly.

Once the participant's grant is calculated, the number of hours he must put into work experience and training combined is obtained by dividing the total monthly grant (basic requirements minus any income) by the prevailing minimum wage. The applicable minimum wage at the time of this study was \$1.25 per hour. Thus, the minimum \$93 per month grantee would be required to spend 74 hours per month at work experience and training; the maximum hours required, regardless of the size of the monthly grant, is eight hours five days per week. Participants receive all state holidays, but no vacation time. Most educational classes require six hours per week of his time, the remainder is spent in work experience, vocational, or on-the-job training.

HEALTH BENEFITS

All WE and T participant family members are entitled to the following health coverage without charge:

- A. Physicians' services, no limit,
 - B. Hospitalization, 14 days maximum per admission for almost any reason including maternity care, with the possibility of an extension to 21 days per admission,
 - C. Dental care, x-rays, extractions, restorations, stannous fluoride, any other treatments for pain, infection or hemorrhage,
 - D. Drugs, as prescribed by physicians and dentists,
 - E. Ophthalmological or optometrical services as necessary for the father.
- Coverage beyond this limit is obtainable upon special request.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Caseworkers coordinate the participants work experience and training components in order to best prepare for future employment. A participant may not refuse a bona fide offer of employment at any time. Every effort is made to coordinate the WE and T Program with similar programs such as, Head Start, Job Corps, Vocational Rehabilitation and the Food Stamp Program. The participant is appraised of his rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities under these programs. He is encouraged to participate fully in all of them.

APPENDIX II

THE PILOT FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The Pilot Food Stamp Program was inaugurated in 1961, and has been expanded subsequently. It is administered by the United States Department of

⁵ U.S. President (Johnson), *op. cit.*, p. 17.

⁶ *Work Experience and Training Handbook*, Section 1010.