

effectively and efficiently, to adapt that assistance more readily to their particular needs through the wider use of projects drawing upon resources available from more than one Federal agency, program, or appropriation and to acquire experience which would lead to the development of legislative proposals respecting the consolidation, simplification, and coordination of Federal assistance programs. It is the further purpose of this Act to encourage Federal-State arrangements under which local governments and other public or private organizations and agencies may more effectively and efficiently combine State and Federal resources in support of projects of common interest to the governments, agencies, and organizations concerned.

BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEADS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

SEC. 3. (a) In order to carry out the purposes of this Act and subject to such regulations as the President may prescribe, the heads of Federal agencies may take actions, by internal agency order or interagency agreement, including but not limited to:

- (1) identification of related programs likely to be particularly suitable or appropriate for providing joint support for specific kinds of projects;
- (2) development and promulgation of guidelines model or illustrative projects, joint or common application forms, and other materials or guidance to assist in the planning and development of projects drawing support from different programs;
- (3) review of administratively established program requirements in order to determine which of those requirements may impede joint support of projects and the extent to which these may be appropriately modified, and making modifications accordingly;
- (4) establishment of common technical or administrative rules among related programs to assist in the joint use of funds in the support of specific projects or classes of projects; and
- (5) creation of joint or common application processing and project supervision procedures or mechanisms including procedures for designating lead agencies to assume responsibilities for processing on behalf of several agencies and for designation of managing agencies to assume responsibilities for project supervision on behalf of several agencies.

(b) The head of each Federal agency shall be responsible for taking actions, to the maximum extent feasible under applicable law, which will further the purposes of this Act with respect to Federal assistance programs administered by his agency. Each Federal agency head shall also consult and cooperate with the heads of other Federal agencies in order similarly to promote the purposes of this Act with respect to Federal assistance programs of different agencies which may be used together or jointly in support of projects undertaken by State or local governments or other public or private agencies and organizations.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

SEC. 4. Actions taken by Federal agencies pursuant to this Act which relate to the processing of applications or requests for assistance under two or more Federal programs in support of any project shall be designed to assure, so far as reasonably possible (1) that all required reviews and approvals are handled expeditiously; (2) that full account is taken of any special considerations of timing that are made known by the applicant that would affect the feasibility of a jointly funded project; (3) that the applicant is required to deal with a minimum number of Federal representatives, acting separately or as a common board or panel; (4) that the applicant is promptly informed of decisions with respect to his application and of any special problems or impediments which may affect the feasibility of Federal provision of assistance on a joint basis; and (5) that the applicant is not required by representatives of any one Federal agency or program to obtain information or assurances concerning the requirements or actions of another Federal agency which could better and more appropriately be secured through direct communication among the Federal agencies involved.

SPECIAL AUTHORITIES—BASIC CONDITIONS

SEC. 5. Where appropriate to further the purposes of this Act, and subject to the conditions prescribed in this section, heads of Federal agencies may use the authorities described in sections 6, 7, and 8 (relating to the establishment