

a single project. Subject to Presidential regulation, Federal agencies could identify programs suitable for joint funding, review and modify administratively established program requirements which impede joint funding, and set up common application and supervision procedures including procedures to designate lead agencies.

Also, with the approval of the President, a Federal agency could delegate to other Federal agencies powers relating to the approval and supervision of projects or classes of projects under a joint program. The bill further provides for joint management funds with accounting procedures structured as though the assistance were received from a single agency, and for establishment, pursuant to Presidential regulations, of common technical or administrative standards where necessary to avoid subjecting a project to requirements based on inconsistent or conflicting provisions of law. In addition, arrangements similar in many respects to those authorized among Federal agencies could be included between Federal and State agencies where appropriate to facilitate projects involving assistance from both Federal and State sources.

The Department supports S. 2981. In our view it will encourage needed cooperation and innovation in program development at the State and local level. It should contribute substantially to efforts to improve coordination among Federal programs, help make those programs more responsive to State and local needs, and assist in eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens and paper work that may now be involved in developing and carrying out projects drawing upon more than one source of assistance.

At present, even a community or agency with considerable capacity for complex project planning may hesitate to undertake development of a project involving a novel combination or use of assistance from several Federal or Federal and State sources. Such a project may encounter significant delays, while the individual applications for each component of the project are processed by the responsible agencies pursuant to the frequently different technical requirements and priorities of each agency. Because of such delays, the project may have to be abandoned or substantially modified after a good deal of time and effort has been invested. Once approved, the terms and conditions prescribed by each agency for its component of the project may differ to such a degree as to make effective and efficient local administration quite difficult.

In the case of rural or smaller communities the problems are, of course, even more difficult. There, too often, even a relatively simple effort at combining assistance from different sources is likely to be considered too burdensome, assuming that the opportunity for using such a combination in meeting local problems is seen and appreciated.

We think that the bill would encourage communities to make much greater use of their capacity for structuring projects to meet local needs as they see them. In the case of States and larger communities, we would hope this might include a good deal of innovative effort to make more effective use of a variety of programs in dealing with relatively complex problems. Smaller communities may not be able to do so much on their own. But they can be helped to take advantage of the bill through technical assistance, including technical assistance through State agencies funded under title IX of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966. Further, small communities could benefit greatly from the opportunity which the bill would afford to Federal and State agencies for designing standard program packages or combinations tailored to meet needs or problems known to be common to a number of communities.

There are, we believe, many cases in which programs of this Department might be effectively employed in connection with projects developed under the bill. The bill could, for example, be employed to simplify the securing or administration of assistance in connection with the wide variety of projects that might be included within a Model Cities program. It could be used by applicants seeking to design air pollution or water pollution projects which might involve public facilities programs of this Department and programs of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Economic Development Administration. It might be used in connection with neighborhood conservation or improvement projects that combine, for example, code enforcement and rehabilitation loan and grant assistance from this Department together with such things as funds from the Department of Labor to assist in training of residents to do some of the work involved or funds to expand a legal services program capable of providing tenants with legal advice and assistance relating to code enforcement activities.