

providing procedures for review of local and State applications for Federal construction loans and grants by metropolitan or regional planning agencies. Section 204 required that an operative program for the review of the major physical development grant program applications by metropolitan or regional planning agencies must be established by July 1, 1967. The Bureau of the Budget has the responsibility of designating the applicable planning agencies. Review agencies have now been designated in all 233 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States. A review of the first six months' experience in implementing the requirement indicates a general satisfaction with its development, an awareness of problem areas, and willingness to improve the review process.

GRANT-IN-AID CATALOGS

In February 1967, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget requested the Secretaries of Commerce, Labor, Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Directors of the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Office of Emergency Planning to avoid unnecessary duplication in the production of general catalogs of Federal grants-in-aid. Several agencies were producing or contemplating the production of different catalogs which contained information on their own grant programs as well as information on programs of other agencies. Response to the Director's letter was favorable; a single revised catalog listing all Federal programs of the agencies which bear on individual and community development was published under the leadership of the Office of Economic Opportunity. The new *OEO Catalog of Federal Assistance Programs*, which became generally available in July, contains information on 458 Federal assistance programs. A companion document to the Catalog, the *Vice President's Handbook for Local Officials*, was recently issued by the Office of the Vice President and has been distributed to over 50,000 State and local officials.

The Director has established an interagency task force to further integrate these efforts and build upon the concept of a single authoritative catalog for Federal domestic assistance programs. The task force is to advise the Director on matters such as the assignment of organizational responsibility for publication and maintenance of such a catalog, additional matters to be covered, and methods to insure periodic updating. Task force members include representatives of the Departments of Labor, Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Office of Economic Opportunity, Office of Emergency Planning, Library of Congress (Legislative Reference Service), and the Office of the Vice President. A final report has been submitted to the Director. Bureau of the Budget staff are now considering actions which should be taken in response to this report.

UNIFORM DETERMINATIONS OF ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

The Bureau of the Budget has recently issued Circular No. A-87 which sets uniform standards for determination of allowable costs for administrative and other program-related expenses under *all* Federal grant-in-aid programs. One major thrust of the circular would be to have State and local indirect overhead costs recognized as allowable costs in connection with administration of aid programs. The objective is to achieve greater uniformity and to eliminate so far as possible present differences in agency practices.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT STUDIES

Several projects are currently underway which will improve the management of Federal grants and contracts, particularly for the grantee.

A Federal team comprised of the Bureau, NSF, DOD, GAO and HEW/NIH has completed a review of the problems which universities experience because of Federal requirements for time and effort reporting on grant and contract projects. The findings of the team resulted in an amendment to Circular A-21 which has just been issued.

Another project having to do with Federal-university relationships has recently been completed. Budget Circular No. A-88 has been issued calling for a single Federal agency to negotiate indirect cost rates with an individual university, with all other Federal agencies following that guideline. The circular also requires that one Federal agency do the auditing of all Federal grants and contracts at the university.