

regional sewerage programs) be committed for the length of the project, perhaps several years. NACO urges the establishment of mechanisms within the federal government to assure funds for the completion of long term projects.

9-18. *Equalization in Federal grants.*—Federal grants provide essential financial support to state and local governmental programs by helping to bridge the gap between revenue needs and fiscal resources in support of vital national policy objectives. Their distribution should reflect, therefore, relative inequalities among recipient governments in program needs and in the fiscal capacities to meet these needs.

A. In view of the uneven pace of economic development in different parts of the country, the National Association of Counties recommends that the President require the several departments and agencies administering federal grant programs to review periodically: (1) the adequacy of the need indexes employed in the respective grant programs; and (2) the appropriateness of their equalization provisions.

B. In recognition of the wide interlocal disparities between needs and resources, we urge the appropriate agencies of the national government to examine those grant programs which distribute funds directly to local governments or support local projects in order to: (1) assess the extent to which variations in local fiscal capacities should be recognized in their distribution; and (2) appraise the feasibility of administering effective and equitable equalization provisions in such grants.

C. In view of the wide interlocal variations, we urge the states to recognize, to the extent practicable, disparities in fiscal needs and resources among local governments in the redistribution of federal grant funds.

D. To facilitate these objectives, we recommend further that the Executive Office of the President expedite the development of plans and procedures for assembling the data required for improving measures of state (including local) relative fiscal capacity and tax effort for government-wide use.

AMERICAN COUNTY PLATFORM

TITLE VIII

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT

2-6. *Government relocation policy.*—Relocation is a serious and growing problem in the United States. Thousands of people and businesses are forced to move because of government projects, and all indications are that this pace of displacement will accelerate. It has been estimated that from 1964 to 1972 the federally aided urban renewal and highway programs alone will dislocate 825,000 families and individuals and 136,000 businesses. Yet in the fact of this large and expanding impact of displacement by government, federal, state and local relocation policies are inconsistent and inequitable. Neighbors displaced by different programs of even the same government are not treated equally. Moreover, those having the most difficulty in adjusting satisfactorily to a forced move are those most often displaced—low income families, the elderly, minority groups, and owners and operators of small neighborhood stores.

The National Association of Counties supports enactment of the proposed legislation which would establish a uniform and consistent federal policy for protection of all persons and businesses displaced by direct federal and federally assisted programs: (1) by compensating for the full costs of such displacements; (2) by requiring provision of a program of advisory assistance and service; (3) by assuring availability of adequate housing as a condition of federal grants-in-aid, similar to the requirement in the federal urban renewal program; and (4) by advancing 100% of funds for the prompt acquisition of highway rights-of-way for federal aid highways and by authorizing state governments to reimburse their state share over the period of the actual construction schedule.

The National Association of Counties urges each state to enact comparable legislation providing a uniform relocation policy for protection of all persons and businesses displaced by state and local programs. Such uniform state policy should also provide for state sharing in local governments' costs of relocation payments in all state-aided projects.

In the interest of economy and the convenience of those displaced, the National Association of Counties further urges federal, state and local governments to cooperate in centralizing responsibilities for relocation, housing, administering