

with other Federal departments and agencies in making the changes which are necessary to provide a coordinated Federal response.

I would also like to take this opportunity to describe briefly several efforts that the Department currently has underway in support of more coordinated policy and administration of grants for urban development.

The Council of State Governments is currently working on a major HUD research project aimed at strengthening the role of State governments in the administration of federally assisted grant-in-aid programs. The purpose of the project is to provide better links between comprehensive planning and the functional State plans required by many Federal grant programs. Over 80 Federal grant programs currently require the States to prepare a plan as a condition of receipt of aid. The study should lead to more consistent Federal planning requirements and strengthen the role of the Governor in the administration of State programs.

The Department has recently established an interagency committee to examine federally supported State technical assistance programs for helping localities in all aspects of community development. This committee is composed of representatives from OEO, EDA, HEW, Agriculture, Transportation, and Labor. It is assessing the impact of federally supported technical assistance programs on State administrative structure and ways of coordinating the funding, coverage, and administration of these Federal aids. The study will identify specific instances in which improved coordination might enhance the effectiveness of federally supported State-local technical services, propose improvements in interagency review of proposed activities, and help reduce duplication of grant coverage and approval.

Another recent effort by the Department to improve HUD relations with States and localities was the further decentralization of Departmental operations and a reduction in time for processing grant applications. This was done in line with the recommendations of the Joint Administrative Task Force established by the President and chaired by our Assistant Secretary for Administration, Dwight Ink.

In addition, in order to better assist States and localities, we hope to establish a staff in each HUD regional office to coordinate and unify HUD program relationships at the State and local level. They will assist the Regional Administrator in serving as liaison among States and localities on matters involving more than one program or requiring Departmental level participation and coordination. This should contribute to a more coordinated policy and a better mix of programs for improved urban development.

We recognize the desirability of assuring that there be periodic congressional review of new Federal grant programs, as provided for in title V. It is important after a reasonable time to examine grant-in-aid legislation in order to be satisfied that the authority and funding provided is appropriate and adequate to current needs. We endorse, however, the views of the Bureau of the Budget concerning the disadvantages of a fixed 5-year termination date for grant programs as compared with more flexible provision for review.