

tion. Nowhere is this more significant than in the administration of grants for urban development.

To this end, we have, over the years, forged some effective relationships through interdepartmental committees or task forces and through effective person-to-person liaison. A recent example of an effective coalition of the Federal Task Force by the President, with representatives from the Departments of Housing and Urban Development; Health, Education, and Welfare; Labor; and the Office of Economic Opportunity, to speed the processing of State and local applications for Federal grants-in-aid. The Task Force focused primarily on four types of multipurpose projects of major significance—Model Cities, Neighborhood Service Centers, Manpower Programs, and Water and Sewer programs. The Task Force accomplished its objectives of reducing the processing time in some 42 programs by 50 percent, and, in a second phase, extended its review to other Federal grant-in-aid programs with similar results.

The Joint Administrative Task Force developed a common application form for local governments to use when applying for grants-in-aid from several Federal departments and agencies for support of neighborhood service programs. This form, adopted by the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Office of Economic Opportunity, has greatly simplified the application process for local communities as well as the reviews at the Federal level.

The Joint Administrative Task Force also recommended and has seen adopted an interagency coordination structure for use in the review and approval of Model Cities applications and in the provision of technical assistance to cities preparing Model Cities demonstration programs. The four agencies have established (1) a Washington interagency review committee for joint action on Model Cities planning grant applications as well as subsequent program grants; (2) regional review committees; and (3) joint technical assistance teams and local city working groups.

Within the Department, we have made specific organizational changes to improve our ability to work effectively with other Departments on urban problems:

Early in 1967, Secretary Gardner established the Center for Community Planning for the purpose of providing an urban focus for the Department and developing HEW responsiveness to the needs of the city.

The Center coordinates Departmental activity in connection with the Model Cities, Neighborhood Services Program, Parent Child Centers, the Youth Opportunity Campaign and other urban programs. It has built a "Technical Assistance Network" utilizing local Social Security district office managers and other Departmental personnel, through which requests for information and assistance in connection with urban problems may be routed rapidly to that point—the State, the Region or the appropriate agency in Washington—where the most effective help can be given.

One of the Center's major tasks is to develop new and more flexible mechanisms of funding comprehensive urban programs such as the Model Cities. It has developed and is operating a system for prompt interagency evaluation of multipurpose projects involving HEW and other Departments. The Center represents the Department on interdepartmental task forces and committees concerned with urban programs and with semi-public associations such as the Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

The Center is currently working with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop policy for the Federal Departments in working with the States in the Model Cities and other urban programs, and to advise the States of the role they should be playing in his effort.

While the joint efforts we have undertaken with HUD and other agencies concerned with urban development have made a substantial contribution, it is clear that Title IV provides us with important new tools to achieve a more efficient administration of grants for urban development. I therefore support the purpose of Title IV to advance the development of consistent Federal policies and procedures for carrying out a firm, constructive urban development policy.