

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, D.C., September 30, 1967.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On May 11 you asked Secretary Gardner, Secretary Wirtz, Director Shriver and me to establish a Joint Administrative Task Force to speed the processing of state and local applications for components of multipurpose projects.

On behalf of my colleagues, I am pleased to submit this final report of the Task Force.

The goal you set in your memorandum was to reduce by at least 50 per cent the time it now takes to process applications at the Federal level.

The Task Force working with program officials completed a study of 42 programs in four broad areas of primary significance to multipurpose projects. These areas are Model Cities, Neighborhood Centers, Manpower and Water and Sewer. Eight Federal departments and agencies are involved in all or some of these projects.

In the area covered by the study, we have accomplished your objective by reaching decisions and initiating actions which will achieve a solid reduction of 50 per cent in total Federal processing time.

With continued diligence, we expect to improve that percentage.

We have developed measures to kindle a more immediate Federal response to the needs of the states and cities. These include the elimination of duplicative procedures, delegating more decision making authority to the field, and holding more consultations with local and state officials before applications are filed.

The overall processing time also depends heavily upon the actions of state and local governing bodies. However, the streamlining measures adopted by the Federal Government should also produce savings in time at the state and local level, enabling those officials to move ahead with plans and programs at a faster rate.

The time saved will permit low income families to move into housing at an earlier date, neighborhood centers will be established more quickly in communities that need them, and manpower training will be made available sooner—all without further impact on Federal budget commitments.

We regard this as a milestone in your efforts to make the machinery of the Federal Government function more smoothly and efficiently, and improve its services to the cities and states. We believe the report shows dramatic evidence of what can be accomplished through inter-departmental cooperation and a searching review of program administration.

Coupled with the earlier study of multipurpose neighborhood centers by the Bureau of the Budget and the Executive Officers Group, this report represents an important beginning. Ahead are the large tasks of completing implementation, examining additional programs, and developing bold and innovative methods to coordinate Federal activities still more effectively in conducting multipurpose projects.

We assure you that these all-important matters will continue to receive high priority and our close attention.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT C. WEAVER.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE TASK FORCE REPORT

SCOPE OF STUDY

The Task Force focused on 42 programs in four multipurpose areas:

- Model Cities (involving eight Departments and agencies).
- Neighborhood Centers (involving two Departments and OEO).
- Manpower (involving three Departments and OEO).
- Water and Sewer (involving four Departments).