

RESULTS

Pilot program

The Washington Interagency Review Committee (WIRC) is the policy group in charge of the Pilot Program. The management improvements it installed includes:

1. A "project management" type organization both in Washington and in the field. In Washington, a separate organizational unit, under the direction of the Chairman of the WIRC, is responsible for centralized operation of the program. In the field, each pilot city is handled by a Federal Regional Team consisting of one member each from HEW, HUD, Labor, and OEO. The team is chaired by the HUD member, who functions as field project manager. This type of organization structure was a principal recommendation of the Interagency Study Group. It has proven a major factor in promoting interagency cooperation and instilling a real "sense of urgency" in program operations.

2. Group conferences and face-to-face discussion among participants in the program, in lieu of lengthy review procedures, both in field and Washington operations.

3. An initial program submission, which served as the major document for specific Federal program applications to the participating agencies.

4. Simplified application forms and procedures, which will serve as the final submission for some program components. Developed by the Manpower Team working with the WIRC, this common application reduces to a minimum the information required for approval and funding 28 component programs.

Component programs

Decisions made in 11 component programs in HEW, HUD, and OEO will reduce processing time by an average of 50 per cent (Table II). Actions to achieve this reduction include:

Delegating additional authority to the field.

Eliminating technical reviews in Washington.

Reducing the number of mandatory reviews in the field.

Increasing pre-application consultation and technical assistance.

Installing a priority system of rating applications.

THE JOB AHEAD

The Pilot Program will focus primarily on ways to capitalize on experience gained and lessons learned. Especially important is the potential application to the ongoing Neighborhood Centers Program and to Model Cities of:

Project management techniques.

Group conferences.

Common application forms and procedures.

For component programs, the job ahead centers on completing implementation and evaluating results.

TABLE II.—SUMMARY OF PROCESSING TIME REDUCTIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Program	Original processing times (workdays)	New processing times (workdays)	Time savings	
			Workdays	Percent
HUD: Neighborhood facilities.....	212	93	119	56
HEW:				
Comprehensive health projects 314(e) PHS.....	230	104	126	55
National Institutes of Mental Health (PHS).....	200	100	100	50
Demonstration projects, sec. 1115.....	56	26	30	54
Maternal and infant care.....	83	42	41	50
Sec. 13(a) training service.....	47	23	24	51
Sec. 12 construction grants.....	48	24	24	50
Vocational rehabilitation and demonstrations.....	120	60	60	50
Comprehensive health service youth.....	27	14	13	50
Child welfare research demonstration.....	83	42	41	50
OEO: Community action program.....	135	88	47	35
Total.....	1,241	616	625	50