

SPECIAL EMPHASIS IN LEGISLATION

The dynamic and critical approach to meeting community needs as set forth within this legislation emphasizes the use of low cost extended care facilities within the existing hospital and medical center complexes inclusive of the replacement of outmoded, uneconomical and inefficient facilities. Inducement to obtain the programs and resulting community services includes adjustments of Federal matching fund ratios to 50 per centum of modernization construction and 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per centum for extended care and other low cost facilities.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

This legislation represents the eight-year accumulation of individual and collective efforts of these health care institutions to meet the expressed and researched community needs. Areawide regional planning concepts as well as the endorsement of these plans has been accomplished. The legislation requires that each project submitted meet the community facility plans and those of the Secretary of HEW. This process is a continuous one for each of the grant and loan requests.

ROLE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A STATE-COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In local city, county, and state jurisdictions throughout the country, financial assistance to meet matching funds is forthcoming from the government itself in addition to individual and industrial contributions. The requested loan amendment is equivalent to the bond issues in other jurisdictions. Because of the uniqueness of the Nation's capital where upwards of 70% of the population is employed by the United States Government or by its supportive service industries, no such possibility exists.

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION FUND REQUIREMENTS

A. HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FACILITIES PROGRAM

This bill is designed to provide for special needs for hospitals and medical center facilities in the District of Columbia by reason of its being the Nation's Capital and the central city core of a large metropolitan area, now with an estimated 2.5 million population and expected to increase to 3.5 million by 1980.

General Hospital and Nursing Home Beds

In the District of Columbia there is now a total of 4957 general hospital beds in existence or approved for construction. In accordance with the statistical report for the year ended June 1967, of the Health Facilities Planning Council for Metropolitan Washington, these hospital beds have an annual utilization rate of 84.7 percent compared with a national average of 76.5 percent. This means that on a given day of the year, an average of 4199 beds is being utilized and of these it is estimated that 40% are being used by residents of the surrounding counties, leaving 2519 beds for use by District residents. Furthermore, the average length of stay of a patient in any one of these beds