

However, the Board does not want the discussion of these needed changes to undermine the confidence of the taxpayers and the sense of security of the welfare recipients in our New York programs, which last year aided more than 1.3 million of our needy citizens at a total cost of \$1.8 billion.

MONTHLY SECURITY GRANTS FOR THE AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED

There have been many suggestions that the aged, blind and disabled be transferred from public welfare to the Social Security Administration. Such a transfer would require action by the Congress.

To accomplish the objectives of this proposal in New York State and to test procedures, the Board has requested the State Department of Social Services to inaugurate, in selected social services districts, a system of monthly security grants to the aged, blind and totally disabled based on their needs as determined by a certified application without preliminary verification.

Mandated periodic verification of the eligibility of these recipients will be eliminated, since by definition their condition is not likely to change for the rest of their lives. Instead reverification will be performed on an "as needed" basis.

A separate service unit will be established by the Department, where a variety of social services will be available to the aged, the blind and the totally disabled. Thus the system will differentiate between the maintenance of income and the delivery of services.

This new system will add dignity and simplicity to the care of this group, will eliminate the caseload concept, and will create a service-oriented method of resolving individual problems as they arise.

CERTIFIED APPLICATIONS IN GENERAL

The Board has been urged to authorize the replacement of the present process of detailed verification by the use of certified applications. This is the recommendation of the Arden House Conference Steering Committee, concurred in by the participants at the Forum conducted by the Committee for Economic Development as well as by many who appeared at the Regional Conferences. It is now in use in the States of California and Maine, and was mandated by our State Legislature in the Medical Assistance program.

Applicants and recipients are the primary source of information as to their own needs, income and other resources. A form asking for essential information, completed by the applicant or recipient who certifies that it is accurate and complete, would permit a simple and quick determination as to his eligibility. As at present, there would be follow-up spot-checks and audit procedures.

This system would reduce the time lag in action on the application, would lend dignity to the applicants and recipients and would permit more effective use of present personnel in the rendition of needed care and services and might delay or reduce the need for enlarged staffs.

Accordingly, the Board directs the Department to prepare and conduct an adequate demonstration project, including both metropolitan and upstate districts, designed to provide more complete information on the basis of which an evaluation can be made of a certified application system.

SEPARATION OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

The Board believes that true social services should be separated from the function of determining eligibility and granting financial assistance. This separation will result in more effective use of trained social workers in the work for which they have been trained, and will undoubtedly reduce staff turnover.

The Board has asked the State Department of Social Services to expedite the planning and installation of such a separation of services throughout the state.

In view of the severe shortage of professional social work personnel, it is essential that scarce skills be put to use where the need is greatest and where results can be expected to be most rewarding. At the same time, job functions will be organized in such a way that staff with a greater range of education and experience can perform effectively.

Just as it is imperative to make the best use of trained social workers, it is also imperative to make full use of less experienced persons for work that does not require advanced education and experience. The Board has already adopted a Rule making provision for Community Services Aides in local social services