

Cut Grants / Deny Aid

Q HOW WILL THE FREEZE WORK?

A On July 1, 1968 when the federal government stops paying its share of welfare for all children over the limit set in the law two things will be likely to happen:

1. Welfare Departments will try to "get tough" about letting any more people on welfare (and they will, of course, also try to cut people off wherever possible).
2. States will try to cut all welfare grants to make up for this lost federal money.

Q WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

A If your situation stays the same, you cannot be cut off. All states are required by federal law and the U.S. Constitution to treat people equally and anyone who qualifies for welfare must be aided even if the federal government doesn't pay its share.

If grants are cut they must be cut for all children equally.

Q WHAT CAN OUR LOCAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION DO ABOUT THE FREEZE?

A Start now to inform people of their right to welfare when they are in need. Pick a regular day when your group "sets up a table" at the welfare department to inform people who are trying to get help from welfare of their rights. This is how to stop welfare departments from illegally denying aid by using the freeze as an excuse.

Find out who decides how much money recipients receive in your state. Is it the state welfare director? a welfare board? the legislature? Then plan a campaign to RAISE grants--this is the best way to fight against lower grants!

Force Mothers To Work

Q HOW WILL THIS "WORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM" BE USED TO FORCE MOTHERS TO WORK?

A The welfare department decides if you are an appropriate mother to be forced to work. All mothers who are to be required to work are then sent to the local state employment office. The state employment office decides if: you should be sent out to a regular job (any work that is available); or put into some kind of job training program; or if you need to have a special job created for you.

Whatever the state employment office decides you must accept unless you have good cause.

If you refuse then the welfare department will cut you off. Your children may still receive aid but their money may only be paid through someone else or to a foster parent.

Q WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

A Each step of the way you have rights!

You can appeal the welfare department's decision that you are an appropriate mother to be forced to work.

You can appeal the state employment plan for your if you think it is wrong.

You can appeal if you are finally cut off by welfare.

Q WHAT ABOUT DAY CARE FOR MY CHILDREN UNDER THIS PROGRAM?

A Welfare must provide standard quality day care for your children if they try to get you into this work plan. You can refuse work or training if welfare does not provide good day care for your children.

Q IF I WANT WORK OR TRAINING BUT WELFARE TRIES TO KEEP ME OUT OF THIS PROGRAM, WHAT CAN I DO?

A This is very important--if you want work or training you should demand that welfare provide day care for your children and find you decent work or training or create a job for you. This will help other mothers who feel they should be at home with their children. But you will need to be organized because welfare may try to force you to take bad jobs or training and you will have to fight to get what you want.