

In most provinces, administrative and financial responsibility for a number of the programs is shared by the provinces and their municipalities. Provincial administration of welfare, as of other provincial assistance, is carried out through the department of public welfare in each province. Several provincial welfare departments have established regional offices for administrative purposes and to provide consultative services to the municipalities.

Significant changes have taken place in provincial programs in the past few years. New or revised legislation or new procedures in a number of provinces have laid the foundation for improved standards of service and administration, and re-appraisal of services is continuing.

In the fields of general assistance or residual aid, a shift has taken place in the administrative and financial responsibility between the provinces and their municipalities. The provinces have assumed a substantial share of the costs and several provinces have broadened the area of social allowances, formerly limited almost entirely to mothers' allowances, in which the municipalities do not share costs. The financial contribution of the Federal Government to the provinces for unemployment assistance (see pp. 259-260) has doubtless been an important contributing factor in these developments.

All provinces are giving some consideration to the need for integrated planning on behalf of older citizens. A number have increased their capital or maintenance grants to municipalities and to voluntary groups for homes for the aged and are also assisting in the construction of low-rental housing projects.

The main efforts in child welfare have been directed toward improvement of standards and greater flexibility of services, with particular emphasis on preventive casework services for children in their own homes, development of specialized children's institutions, and the finding of adoption homes for all children in need of them.

An impressive number of voluntary agencies also contribute to community welfare including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups and released prisoners. Family welfare agencies or combined family and child welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer casework services to families in need of counselling on such problems as marital relations, parent-child relations and family budgeting. Counselling and recreational services for older or retired people are being developed by many agencies. Child and youth organizations with recreational and character-building programs offer group participation in physical education, camping, the development of special skills and other healthful activity. Welfare councils and community planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordinating of local welfare services.

Local voluntary agencies and institutions are usually incorporated under provincial law. They may receive public grants, depending on the nature and standard of the services they render, although, with the exception of the semi-public children's aid societies, their main support may be from united funds or community chests, or from sponsoring organizations.

Welfare services, public and private, are hampered by the continued shortage of qualified social workers, although a number of provincial departments and voluntary agencies have granted educational leave with pay or bursaries to enable selected staff to attend schools of social work. Substantial increases in the number of professionally qualified staff may be expected with the development of the five-year program of welfare grants announced by the Federal Government in April 1962. Bursaries, training grants, scholarships and fellowships, and academic and field instruction grants will be available under the General Welfare and Professional Training Grants. Equally important, demon-