

most provinces have now ceased to accept applications for these allowances since, under the Canada Assistance Plan (see Section 6.4.1), provinces can provide a more comprehensive assistance program to all persons who are in need, without categorizing them according to the cause of their need, such as blindness or disability (Table 6.20).

6.4.3 National welfare grants

The National Welfare Grants program was established in 1962 to help develop and strengthen welfare services in Canada. Under the program, project grants are made to provincial and municipal welfare departments, non-governmental welfare agencies, citizens' organizations and universities. Fellowships are provided to individuals seeking advanced training in the social welfare field. The variety of provisions within the program, with its associated consultative services, allows it to operate as a flexible instrument in the development of welfare services and to give major emphasis to experimental activities in the welfare field. The allotment for the year ended March 31, 1975 was \$4 million.

A wide range of demonstration, research and social development projects are eligible for grants, as are developmental projects related to welfare manpower. Fellowships are available for study at Canadian and foreign universities.

Expenditures under the National Welfare Grants program for the year ended March 31, 1974 totalled \$2,932,702. A sum of \$1,591,600 was expended on demonstration projects; \$499,770 on research projects; \$454,560 on manpower utilization and development, including demonstration, curriculum review in schools of social work and fellowships; \$54,097 on general national agency projects; \$190,687 on special welfare projects including provincially administered bursary and staff development programs; and \$141,988 on mental retardation demonstration and research projects.

6.4.4 Vocational rehabilitation

Under the provisions of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (VRDP) Act, the federal government contributes 50% of the costs incurred by a province in providing a comprehensive program for the vocational rehabilitation of physically and mentally disabled persons. A comprehensive program includes such services as medical, social and vocational assessment, counselling, restoration and placement services, the provision of prostheses, training, maintenance allowances and the provision of tools, books and other equipment. These services are provided directly by the provincial government or purchased from voluntary agencies. The disabled client participates in setting an employment objective for himself and in designing an appropriate program of services. His vocational goal may be employment in the competitive labour market, a profession, homemaking, farm work, sheltered employment or homebound work of a remunerative nature. Shareable costs also include the salary and necessary travelling costs of staff whose duties are directly related to this program and other administrative expenses necessary for the co-ordination and delivery of services to the disabled. (Other rehabilitation services provided by agencies and voluntary organizations may be funded by a province and are eligible for 50% reimbursement from the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.) All provinces and territories, except Quebec, participate in the VRDP program.

During the fiscal year 1973-74, the federal government contributed \$10,006,529 to the provinces under the Act and 25,494 clients received services.

6.4.5 Family planning

The Family Planning Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare was formed in January 1972 to provide a centre of responsibility for the federal family planning program. Its objective is to ensure, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, the accessibility and availability of family planning services to all Canadians who want them by: informing Canadians about the purpose and methods of family planning so that the exercise of free individual choice in this area will be based on adequate knowledge; promoting the training of health and welfare professionals and other staff involved in family planning services; aiding family planning programs operating under public or voluntary auspices through federal grants-in-aid and joint federal-provincial programs.

The Division's major program activities include consultation, information, training and the family planning grants. Consultation is provided to a broad range of government and non-