

shares in administration costs of assistance and welfare services programs, such as salaries and employee benefits, and in the costs of related staff training, research and consulting services. These may be provided by provincial or municipal governments or by provincially approved non-profit agencies.

Federal payments under the Canada Assistance Plan amounted to \$1.4 billion in the fiscal year 1975-76. This figure includes payments made to Quebec through the Department of Finance under the terms of the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.

6.6.2 Allowances for the blind and disabled

Under the Blind Persons Act, 1951, and the Disabled Persons Act, 1954, the federal government shares in the cost to the provinces of providing assistance to blind and disabled persons, aged 18 and over, who meet certain income and residence requirements. However, most provinces have now ceased to accept applications for these allowances since, under the Canada Assistance Plan, provinces can provide a more comprehensive assistance program to all persons in need, without categorizing them according to the cause, such as blindness or disability.

6.6.3 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. Sharable 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 coordination 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 1975-76 the federal government contributed \$16,513,878 to the provinces under the act and 48,747 clients received services.

6.7 Provincial income security programs

6.7.1 Social assistance

All provinces make legislative provision for assistance to persons in need and their dependents. Need is determined by the budget deficit method whereby the needs of the applicant and dependents are calculated according to a prescribed schedule or budget for items of basic need (food, clothing, personal and household needs). Assistance for shelter and utilities is paid according to actual costs, sometimes within stated maxima. The amount of the allowance is the difference between "need", so calculated, and the resources available to the applicant to meet that need. The maximum amount of monthly assistance paid toward items of basic need is subject to any ceilings which may be imposed by provincial legislation.