

319 municipalities. The disbursements provided such amenities as community and day-care centres, parks and playgrounds, improvement of water and sewer services and upgrading of sidewalks and street lighting. In 1979 NIP and the municipal infrastructure program were replaced by the Community Services Program (CSP).

Community services. Under the CSP, which started in January 1979, block funds are made directly to the provinces, and are allocated on the basis of the urban population and municipal tax capacity in each province. By this means, each province will be able to decide on the type of community services which will be eligible for funding and how funds will be allotted to its municipalities.

The program was introduced so that federal funds could be used to meet needs and conditions at the local level, and to reduce detailed administrative procedures by disentangling the federal government from project-by-project scrutiny. The initial funding level of the program was \$150 million, to be increased in January 1980 to \$250 million.

Eligible community services outlined by the federal government include the planning and installation of water supplies and sewage systems; the provision of social and cultural facilities, such as day-care centres, libraries and community centres; and community recreation facilities. Funds can also be used for upgrading older, low-income neighbourhoods; for the municipal equity of non-profit housing; for upgrading and insulating municipal buildings and community facilities and for facilities which convert municipal waste to the production of energy.

RRAP which operated in conjunction with NIP will continue. Under this program, loans are made available to home owners to improve and repair old and substandard dwellings. The NHA loans granted under this program are in part forgivable depending on income. In 1978, \$90 million was committed for the rehabilitation of 20,522 dwelling units. Between 1974 and 1978, over \$233 million was committed for the rehabilitation of 20,552 dwelling units.

Home improvement loan program. Under the home improvement loan provision of the NHA, chartered banks and approved credit instalment agencies are authorized to make loans for home improvements at favourable interest rates. These loans are guaranteed by CMHC in return for an insurance fee. In 1978, there were 1,261 loans approved for a total of \$4.2 million.

Insulation programs. During 1977, under federal government direction, CMHC established two new programs for energy conservation in residential dwellings. The home insulation program was instituted in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, two provinces particularly affected by rising energy costs. The Canadian Home Insulation Program (CHIP) applied to older housing in all areas of Canada except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. By December 1978, a total of 190,760 grants had been made under the two programs at an expenditure of \$60.4 million in federal subsidies.

Research

9.2.1

CMHC provides funds to support policy and housing research projects. In 1978 the volume of financial support for these projects increased 45%, from \$757,000 in 1977 to \$1.1 million in 1978.

Projects funded included a national housing design competition to secure plans for more energy efficient houses; an updating of a survey of thermal efficiency of Canadian housing; and a study of housing conversions, demolitions and abandonments in Canada. In addition, there was an examination of long-term demographic changes on the use of housing.

Other projects included research on district heating; a review of the Canadian Water Supply Energy Loop (CANWEL); preliminary studies on the feasibility of controlled air ventilation and heat recovery systems; and development of a residential construction cost information system.

The corporation's involvement with different aspects of solar heating included assisting in the review of aid to solar energy manufacturers for the development of solar heating equipment; assessing the potential for passive solar heating in Canada; and commissioning a major study of solar utilities.