

assistance, with some exceptions, is administered by the municipality with substantial financial support from the province. In most provinces assistance is given for food, clothing, shelter and utilities, but it may also include incapacitation or rehabilitation allowances, post-sanatorium allowances, maintenance costs of boarding or nursing-home care, counselling and homemaking services.

The provincial departments of public welfare have regulatory powers over municipal administration of general assistance. Several provinces recommend rates of assistance as a guide to municipalities and some specify rates at which payments must be made if a municipality is to qualify for provincial reimbursement. Specified standards of administration may also be a requirement. The province may take the responsibility for aid in unorganized areas and for the cost of aid to certain categories of persons, such as transients.

With the introduction of reimbursement plans designed to equalize municipal responsibility, British Columbia and Saskatchewan abolished municipal residence requirements. In 1960, Quebec also abolished municipal residence requirements with the reorganization of the assistance program. In other provinces, the residence of the applicant, as defined by statute, determines the financially responsible authority. Under the federal Unemployment Assistance Act, all provinces have agreed that residence shall not be a condition of assistance for applicants who come from other provinces. For persons without the required length of residence (usually one year) in a province, aid may be given by the province or the municipality, for which a chargeback may or may not be made to the municipality or province of residence.

Under the Unemployment Assistance Act, also, the Federal Government shares in the cost of aid to needy unemployed persons to the extent of 50 p.c. of costs as set out in the Act (see pp. 259-260). The federal share is based upon the amount expended for aid by the provinces and their municipalities, with reimbursement being made to the provinces, which make their own arrangements with the municipalities for provincial-municipal sharing of costs. These vary as follows. In Newfoundland, such assistance is the responsibility of the province and is administered by the Department of Public Welfare. In Prince Edward Island, the Department of Welfare and Labour provides direct social assistance in rural areas and assumes 75 p.c. of the cost of assistance granted by the City of Charlottetown and the incorporated towns and villages; the Department also operates a province-wide program of financial aid to families where the breadwinner is suffering from tuberculosis and is unable to support the family. In Nova Scotia, social assistance is administered by the municipality, which receives reimbursement from the Department of Public Welfare for two-thirds of the cost of assistance given and one-half of the cost of administration. In New Brunswick, the province reimburses each municipality to the extent of one dollar per capita of the population plus 70 p.c. of expenditures on general assistance in excess of that amount, and also pays 50 p.c. of the cost of administration.

In Quebec, the province reimburses municipal departments or authorized agencies for the full cost of aid to persons in their own homes and administers aid to persons who are unfit for work for at least 12 months and, since Sept. 1, 1961, gives supplementary allowances to needy recipients of government benefits and allowances to needy widows and spinsters 60-65 years of age. The cost of aid to unemployable persons in homes for special care, including nursing homes, is borne two-thirds by the province and one-third by the institution.

In Ontario, the Department of Public Welfare reimburses municipalities, up to a prescribed maximum, for 80 p.c. of their expenditures on aid to needy persons and on incapacitation allowances for single needy handicapped residents.

The Social Allowances Act of Manitoba, passed in 1959, transferred from the municipalities to the province responsibility for administering and financing aid to mentally or physically incapacitated persons whose disability is likely to last more than 90 days, and to persons unable to work because of their age. Aid to other needy persons, termed 'indigent relief', remains under the municipalities. The Department of Public Welfare reim-