

SSA Research Grants Study*

The research grants program, which was authorized under the Social Security Amendments of 1956 and for which funds were first appropriated in 1961, is beginning to show results. Seventeen grants were made in the fiscal year 1960-61, 22 in 1961-62, and 33 in 1962-63. Most of the projects run for several years, but final reports have been received or are expected shortly from about a dozen projects.

As a result of the reorganization within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in January 1963, the grants program is now the joint responsibility of the Welfare Administration and the Social Security Administration. In the future, most projects will be supported by one or the other agency, although some that cut across the lines of responsibility will be supported jointly.

The BULLETIN will note the completion of all projects started during 1960-61 through 1962-63 and of all projects funded in whole or part by the Social Security Administration thereafter. Selected reports will be summarized either in notes or in articles.

STUDY OF EFFECT OF RELIEF CURTAILMENT IN AN OHIO COUNTY

Clermont County, Ohio, virtually discontinued general assistance in April 1961, after voters had rejected a local tax levy for welfare. The lives of the needy were made more difficult and strained, while the burden of their support did not disappear but merely shifted to the providers of essential goods and services in the community and to civic groups, churches, voluntary agencies, individuals, and Federal programs.

This finding was made in one of the first studies completed in the research and demonstration grants program of the Social Security Administration. The study of 162 cases in Clermont was

carried out by the research staff of the Community Health and Welfare Council of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Council began its project in November 1962. Its purpose was to learn what had happened to those families and individuals who had been on the general assistance rolls in April 1961 and how they had been affected by the program's curtailment in terms of basic food, shelter, clothing, and utilities. Medical aid was maintained for a year but was discontinued in April 1962.

The average monthly number of cases receiving general assistance in Clermont County had been 170 before April 1961. In May 1961, after the curtailment, there were 10 cases. At the time of the cut in April 1961, there were 162 cases with needs validated by the welfare department.

The Community Health and Welfare Council study group found that 49 of the 162 cases of families and individuals had turned to another type of public assistance—one of the categorical programs that have some Federal funds: aid to families with dependent children, aid to the permanently and totally disabled, old-age assistance, and aid to the blind. Thirty-three cases were not considered in the study since their cutoff from welfare funds was part of normal turnover and was not related to curtailment of aid. Of the remaining 80 cases, 10 could not be located and one refused to be interviewed. Sixty-nine were located and interviewed between December 1, 1962, and April 1, 1963.

The principal findings of the investigators included the following: (1) Most of the 69 cases involved persons who were long-time or native-born residents of the county; (2) in some form, the community has paid and is still paying maintenance costs for most of these cases since the needs of the families and children have continued; (3) the composition of the family and the presence of children made important differences in the way the recipients were able to manage; and (4) the cost of medical care and the health resources available to them were a prime concern of the persons removed from the assistance rolls.

The investigators reported a 54-percent increase in money owed to landlords, grocers, physicians, and hospitals during a 15-month period after the curtailment. They also reported a reluctance to seek medical care on the part of the interviewees if they were unable to pay, and they found many unmet medical needs. Of the 250 children in the

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families studied, only 18 were reported to have received all their smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus immunizations, and only 15 had received all the polio immunizations.

OTHER COMPLETED STUDIES

Among other recent completed studies¹ under the research grants program are the following:

Attitudes Toward Dependency—a study of the interrelationships among attitudes toward dependency, conditions of living, and legitimacy status of children of a stratified random sample of 105 nonwhite mothers receiving aid to families with dependent children in Philadelphia. Principal Investigator: Jane C. Kronick, Graduate Department of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

An Appraisal of Income Maintenance and Adjustment Programs in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in Relation to Needs—a study designed to ascertain minimum income needs for individuals and families and to evaluate the adequacy of government income-maintenance programs. Principal Investigator: Jean R. Pearman, History and Social Science Department, Northern Michigan College, Marquette, Michigan.

Changing Values of Negro Boys From Fatherless Families—an action-research project designed to test the effectiveness of intensive social group services in changing values of Negro boys of fatherless families. Principal Investigator: John W. Cox, Bell Neighborhood Center, 1839 East 81st Street, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

The Florida Suitable Home Law—an exploratory analysis of statistical data on 15,000 cases in aid to families with dependent children in which question of suitability of the home had been raised and which had been reviewed by the State review team in order to discover any significant racial, geographic, or administrative factors. Principal Investigator: Robert T. Lansdale, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

A Research-Demonstration Program To Protect Low-Income Consumers—a project that summarizes the problems faced by the low-income consumer and suggests several action programs to alleviate the problems or to provide protection to the impoverished public housing consumer. Principal Investigator: Kenneth J. Lenihan, Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University, 605 West 115th Street, New York 25, New York.

The Poor Housekeeping Family in Public Housing—a study designed to test the effectiveness of services to families about to be evicted because of poor housekeeping practices. Principal Investigator: Mrs. Mildred Webb Guinnessy, Friends Neighborhood Guild, 703 North 8th Street, Philadelphia 23, Pennsylvania.

¹ Requests for information about any of the projects should be addressed to the project investigator.

Recent Publications*

GENERAL

CROTEAU, JOHN T. *The Economics of the Credit Union*. Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 1963. 202 pp. \$5.95.

Examines the economic and financial characteristics of credit unions in the United States.

KUHN, ALFRED. *The Study of Society: A Unified Approach*. Homewood, Ill.: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., and the Dorsey Press, Inc., 1963. 810 pp. \$11.35.

MCBRIDE, EARLE D. *Disability Evaluation and Principle of Treatment of Compensable Injuries*. (6th edition.) Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1963. 573 pp. \$20.

U. S. PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED. *Pathways to Action: Jobs for the Handicapped, a Program Guide*. Washington: The Committee, 1963. 19 pp.

RETIREMENT AND OLD AGE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION. *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, December 27 and 28, 1962*. Madison, Wis.: The Association, 1963. 359 pp. (Publication No. 30.) \$4.

Part 5 considers older workers in the labor market.

MARTIN E. SEGAL COMPANY. *Benefits Provided by Major Public Employee Retirement Systems*. New York: Martin E. Segal Co., Sept. 1963. Unpaged.

Includes analysis of the Federal retirement system as well as selected State and municipal systems.

MELONE, JOSEPH J. *Collectively Bargained Multi-Employer Pension Plans*. Homewood, Ill.: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1963. 191 pp. \$6.

A report published for the Pension Research Council of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania. Considers "the forces that give rise to collectively bargained multi-employer plans," the characteristics and advantages of such plans, and the problems they pose.

NIZAN, ARYEH. *Living Conditions of the Aged in Israel*. Jerusalem: National Insurance Institute, Aug. 1963. Various paging.

Study of 50,000 persons receiving old-age insurance pensions and 8,000 receiving old-age assistance.

SOBEL, IRVIN, and WILCOCK, RICHARD C. "Job Placement Services for Older Workers in the United States." *International Labour Review*, vol. 88, Aug. 1963, pp. 129-156. 75 cents.

First findings from a sample of 40 public employment offices in 12 communities.

STARK, JOHN REGAN. "Social Security Taxes: A Drag on the Economy? A Hard Look at OASI." *Challenge*, vol. 12, No. 2, Nov. 1963, pp. 31-34. 40 cents.

* Prepared in the Library, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Orders for items listed should be directed to publishers and booksellers; Federal publications for which prices are listed should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.