

# Some Pertinent Facts About Public Assistance Division

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Director Division of Public Assistance

The division of public assistance was created by the 1937 legislature within the state board of charities and public welfare for the purpose of administering those phases of the social security program that deal with "Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children."

### How It Functions

The division headquarters are at present located on the second and third floors of the Edwards and Broughton building on Hargett street. Policies for the administration of the act are determined by the state board of charities and public welfare. The state board of allotments and appeal is composed of the chairman of the state board, the commissioner of public welfare and the director of public assistance who is secretary to the board.

The board of allotments and appeal works directly through the regular welfare departments in the various counties as each county now has a full time superintendent of public welfare. The county board of public welfare makes the allotment of the grants to the recipients both of Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children on the basis of the investigation made by the welfare department.

The state average for the grants for old age assistance is \$12.20. The grants vary in amounts from

\$5.00 to \$30.00 according to the need of the applicant. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 will actually receive assistance by the end of the year. For dependent children the state average is \$5.65. The average in the larger urban centers will be higher than in the rural sections of the state. The state average for old age assistance in urban centers is \$15.00 and \$7.00 for aid to dependent children. Approximately 2,500 applications have been received for July grants. Due to the fact that a great deal of detailed information is called for on the application, especially in regard to verification of age and citizenship, it has been necessary to return applications to practically nearly every county for correction.

### Appeals

After an award has been granted the applicant, if dissatisfied, has a right to appeal to the state board of allotments and appeal whose decision is final.

### Property Qualifications

The state board of allotments and appeal has not as yet set up any standards for property limitations. The welfare departments have been instructed to base the program on need and at the same time make the welfare boards in each of the 100 counties responsible for saying who is eligible and the size of the grant. The boards of commissioners have a right to review the grants in the event they desire to do so. It is conceivable, however, that a person who is of age, say 65, and owns property valued at four or five hundred dollars is eligible to participate in the assistance program.

It has been stated before that the purpose of the program is not to take over the responsibility of people who are caring for their relatives in comfortable homes but for those people whose income is not sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living. It is not anticipated that the program will be abused.

### Eligibility Requirements

There are in the law specific eligibility requirements and the applicant for old age assistance and aid to dependent children must not only state those items clearly and accurately but must give the case worker verification of those items.

In verifying statements of applicant case worker must give source of verification—either authentic documentary evidence or sworn affidavits. It is necessary to definitely verify for old age assistance the age, citizenship, (including birthplace), residence, domicile, and need, and for aid to dependent

children—, age, residence, kinship, domicile, and need.

It is essential that the applications be properly prepared and give clear cut and complete evidence of eligibility since it is only through that evidence that the state and federal governments can participate in the payment of awards.

### Administrative Cost

It is the intention of the state board of allotments and appeal to administer the program just as efficiently and economically as it is possible to do. It has been necessary to increase the personnel in the various county welfare departments in order to handle the program efficiently and without delay to the applicants. The 100 counties spent for their welfare departments last year \$358,151.57 plus \$70,000.00 from federal funds spent by the state in helping the counties making a grand total of \$428,151.57 for welfare administration for the year ending June 30, 1937.

The administration of old age assistance and aid to dependent children will add to this approximately \$436,438.88 of which \$150,714.76 will be paid by the counties and \$285,724.12 will be paid by the state and federal government for the coming year. It is difficult to determine the exact cost until after the program has been under way for there will be several adjustments in the various counties to be made regarding the personnel and other items in the budgets.

### Hutson Discusses New Farm Plan

The ideal farm program under the AAA would be one confined to educational work and soil conservation but in actual experience such a program is inadequate.

This is the opinion of J. B. Huston, assistant administrator of the agricultural adjustment administration, who spoke twice last week before delegates attending the 34th annual farm and home week exercises at State college.

Mr. Huston said it was almost a necessity to place some restrictions on the production of price-depressing surpluses of cash crops. Even with acreage control, there are oftentimes good growing seasons when production will go higher than was anticipated. Mr. Huston declared that the present tobacco crop indicated a production of 750 million pounds and if the amount did not go materially beyond this figure, prices should be as good or better than last year. The cotton situation does not look so good, he said. Indications are that a 14 million bale crop will be produced in the South with consumption at 13 million bales for this year.

Looking forward to 1938, Mr. Huston said a simplified and more equitable farm program is being constructed by the AAA. The idea is not to make farm commodities scarce but to keep cash crop production in line with market needs. A special effort will be made to help growers of truck crops and the whole program will be developed so as to fit to every kind of farm in this and other states. It is likely that the old "base acreage" plan will be discarded but that each farmer will be given his share of the soil depleting crops that he can grow without penalty and will be paid on that allotment. The allotments will be made by counties and divided within the counties by committees of farmers.

### Call For Livestock Made by Morrison

Fill North Carolina with pure bred cattle, swine and poultry and check the shipments of meats, poultry and eggs into the state. North Carolinians are raising nothing but cash crops and then spending all the money they make for food which comes from other places, and for commercial fertilizer

to put under cotton and tobacco. Thus did Cameron Morrison, former Governor and Senator, and now private farmer and cattle breeder, sum up the great need of North Carolina agriculture in an address before the annual summer meeting of the Jersey Cattle Club held last week at State college.

Mr. Morrison urged the cattlemen present to band together to advertise their good animals so that the state might establish a reputation for its herds. Partial to Jerseys, the speaker said they would turn feed into more dollars than any other dairy breed. He said it was possible for the State to become a second Isle of Jersey. "Farmers still form the great

stabilizing influence in this country, and if ever it needs to be saved from demoralization and ruin, it will be the stable, God-fearing, courageous people of the farms and villages who will save it," Governor Morrison declared.

He stated that another great need of North Carolina at present is a closely knit organization of farmers. They should organize for their own well-being, he said, and then they could secure anything that they wanted.

Mr. Morrison declared that farm animals are needed in any well balanced program and that the production of cash crops alone will never make a happy and prosperous countryside.

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