

Questions And Answers On The WPA Administration

The following is a partial reprint of a booklet recently issued by F. C. Harrington, administrator of the works progress administration:

As a governmental unit the WPA cooperates with States, counties, cities, and towns, and with various other public agencies, departments, and bureaus. As a work-relief program it is geared to meet the changing conditions of unemployment.

It is for the purpose of answering inquiries, and of informing the American people about the WPA program, that this factual question-and-answer booklet has been prepared.

What is the WPA?

The Works Progress Administration is a Federal agency which cooperates with State and local governments in carrying out needed public improvements and services, in order to provide work and wages for the needy able-bodied unemployed. The local governments plan and sponsor the projects, and the WPA helps to operate them.

What other Federal agencies provide emergency employment?

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); the National Youth Administration (NYA); the Public Works Administration (PWA); and those agencies which operate emergency projects in addition to their regular programs.

Does the WPA give relief without work?

No. Direct relief is provided by States and localities and is intended primarily for the care of unemployed people.

Why does the Federal Government give work to the able-bodied needy unemployed, instead of direct relief?

This policy was adopted in the conviction that work is better than direct relief—because work preserves the skills and self-respect of the workers and makes them fit to return to private industry; because our communities are greatly in need of the public projects on which the unemployed are set to work; and because work projects bring a valuable return to the communities and the Nation for money expended in assisting the unemployed.

What is a WPA project?

It is any useful public work on which the Federal Government and some tax-supported public body have agreed to cooperate, through the WPA, in order to provide work for the needy unemployed. The project is a community or State enterprise which the WPA helps to carry out; the completed project belongs to the community or State.

What is the sponsor of a WPA project?

The sponsor of a WPA project is a State, municipal, or other governmental agency which proposes that the WPA assist it in carrying out a local public improvement or public service. Plans and specifications for the work are submitted by the sponsor. The proposed work must be one which the sponsor has legal authority to do. Since the WPA must use its funds largely for wages, the sponsor must agree to provide most of the materials and equipment necessary.

On what basis does the WPA approve a proposed project?

There must be needy unemployed workers in the locality with the skills required for doing the work. The project must be on public property. It must be socially useful. It must not be a part of the regular work of the sponsoring agency, such as should be wholly financed out of its own regular funds. And most of the Federal funds requested must be used for the wages of project workers.

Does work begin on a WPA project as soon as it is approved?

Not necessarily. Communities are encouraged to maintain a reserve of approved projects so that there will be no delay in starting a new project when it is needed to provide employment.

WPA Employment

Who is eligible for WPA employment?

Any American citizen, or other person owing allegiance to the United States, who is 18 years of age or older, able-bodied, unemployed, and currently certified as in need.

What agency certifies that a worker is in need?

A local public relief agency approved by the WPA, or, in lieu thereof, the local WPA.

Must an unemployed worker be a resident of a State or locality to be eligible for WPA employment there?

State and local practice generally requires legal residence; the WPA itself makes no restrictions.

Are farmers eligible for WPA employment?

Yes; and there are other Federal programs for the special benefit of farmers.

How many members of a family are eligible for WPA employment?

Only one, usually the head of the family. The mother or a grown son or daughter is regarded as the economic head of the family if the father is unable to work.

If two families live together, is a member of each family eligible for WPA employment?

Yes, if both families are in need and otherwise eligible.

How are workers assigned to WPA projects?

The local public relief agency certifies, to the WPA, workers in need and eligible for WPA employment; and from this group of persons the WPA Division of Employment selects, according to their previous experience or training, the workers who can be placed at work on the various local projects.

Are workers assigned to WPA projects in any order of preference?

Congress has directed that eligible war veterans must be given first preference in assignments.

Does the WPA ever employ project workers who have not been certified as in need?

Yes. Noncertified workers with special skill or training necessary to the conduct of a project may be employed if qualified relief workers are not available. Such non-relief workers are secured through the United States Employment Office in the State. At least 95 percent of all project workers, however, must be certified as in need of relief.

How many workers in all has the WPA employed?

About seven million individuals, at one time or another, since the start of the program in 1935.

How many workers are employed at one time by the WPA?

The number has fluctuated, from as low as 1,350,000 in October 1937 to as high as 3,250,000 in November 1938. There were about 3,000,000 WPA workers in March 1939.

What percentage of WPA workers are men? Women?

Men, 87 per cent; women, 13 per cent (December 1938.)

Wages and Hours

What is the average WPA wage?

The average monthly WPA wage is about \$52.50.

Do all WPA workers receive the same monthly wage?

No. The monthly earnings vary according to the degree of skill required by the job, and also according to the region and size of community in which the work is done. In large Northern cities the wages run from \$55 a month for unskilled work to \$94 for professional and technical work, while in Northern rural districts the range is from \$40 to \$60. In the South the range

in large cities is from \$40 to \$79, in rural districts from \$26 to \$48.

Do WPA workers get the same wages as workers in private industry?

They are paid at approximately the same rate per hour, but their monthly earnings are below the general level of private industry.

How many hours do WPA workers work?

They average about 110 hours of work a month. Each employee works a sufficient number of hours each month (at the prevailing hourly rate for the occupation in the locality) to permit him to earn his monthly security wage. WPA workers are not permitted to work more than 8 hours in any day, 40 hours in any week, or 140 hours in any month, except to make up lost time or in emergencies involving the public welfare or the protection of work already done.

Can a WPA worker's job classification be changed?

Yes, if on the basis of experience and ability he is qualified to do work in a different classification, and if such work is available.

Are WPA workers eligible for promotion?

Yes. On the basis of occupational qualifications and ability they can be promoted to foreman, supervisor, or administrative employee, where such positions are available.

Safety and Compensation

What provisions are made for the safety of WPA workers?

It is the foreman's duty to maintain safe working conditions on a project. In addition, safety inspectors make regular inspections of all projects.

Is equipment provided to protect WPA workers from injury?

Yes. Either the WPA or the sponsor of the project provides goggles, safety belts, lifelines, or whatever equipment is necessary to protect the workers against injuries. Also there is a first-aid kit available on every project.

How does the injury rate on WPA projects compare with the general rate of private industry?

It is considerably lower.

Is a WPA worker entitled to compensation for injuries received on the job?

Yes, and for illness resulting from such injuries.

What compensation does a WPA

worker get for injuries received on his job?

Beginning on the fourth day of his disability he draws a compensation equal to two-thirds of his monthly wage but not exceeding \$50 a month. The maximum amount allowed by the U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission for death or injury is \$4,000, payable at a rate not to exceed \$50 a month. In addition, he receives all necessary medical and hospital treatment.

Has an independent appraisal of WPA work been made?

Yes. Ten national organizations cooperated in making an independent appraisal of WPA work. In reply to a questionnaire sent out by these organizations, the officials of counties, cities, and towns in 42 States made some 8,000 reports appraising the Works Program in their communities. The reports were studied and summarized by impartial State committee of leading citizens. They expressed pride in the accomplishments of local WPA workers, and they declared that the WPA had been of immeasurable aid both to the communities and to the workers. Without exception, the summarizing reports of the State committees favor work relief over a dole.

Bass And Bream Season Opened Last Saturday

The fishing season for bass and bream in this section opened last Saturday, June 10. These fish are said to be plentiful and some good sport is expected.

GOOD RESULTS

On land where Dave Thomas, Sylva, Jackson county, applied lime and triple superphosphate, the grass and clover are at least 30 per cent larger than where no phosphate was used.

SELF-FEEDERS

Lenoir County 4-H club boys are learning rapidly the value of using self-feeders in preparing their pigs for market, says Assistant Farm Agent O. R. Freeman.

REVISED

The U. S. department of agriculture's revised estimate of the 1938 cotton crop shows a production of 11,943,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, as compared with 18,946,000 bales in 1937.

Church Services

Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. A. Flanagan, Pastor
Franklin—(Each Sunday)
10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship services.
Morrison—(Each Sunday)
2:30 p. m.—Sunday school.
(Each 2nd and 4th Sunday)
3:30 p. m.—Worship services.

St. Agnes Episcopal Church

The Rev. Frank Bloxham, Rector
8 p. m.—Evening prayer and sermon.

Franklin Methodist Church

The Rev. Ivon L. Roberts, Pastor
(Each Sunday)
10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship services.
7:30 p. m.—Vesper service.

Baptist Church

Rev. C. F. Rogers, Pastor
9:45 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Preaching service.
7 p. m.—B. T. U.
8:00 p. m.—Preaching service.
Wednesday, 8 p. m.—Prayer service

St. John's Catholic Parish

Schedule of Masses:

Franklin:
2nd and 4th Sunday, 8 a. m.
Murphy:
Every 1st Sunday, 7 a. m.
Hiwassee Dam:
1st Saturday, 8:30 a. m.
Cherokee:
Every 3rd Sunday, 8 a. m.
Waynesville:
Every Sunday, 11 a. m.

Macon Circuit

Rev. J. C. Swain, Pastor
First Sunday, 11 a. m.—Union;
2:00 p. m.—Hickory Knoll; 7:30 p. m.—Asbury.
Second Sunday, 11:00 a. m.—Mt. Zion; 2:30 p. m.—Maiden's; 7:30 p. m.—Patton's.
Third Sunday, 11:00 a. m.—Asbury; 2:00 p. m.—Mulberry; 3:00 p. m.—Dryman's; 7:30 p. m.—Union.
Fourth Sunday, 11 a. m.—Patton's; 2:30 p. m.—Maiden's; 7:30 p. m.—Mt. Zion.

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