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**Welfare Department's Annual Report Shows
Sharp Increase In Number Of Persons Getting
Assistance From Various Programs**

By K. T. Furrill, Superintendent,
Pitt County Welfare Department.

The reports on the activities of the Pitt County Department of Public Welfare for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, show an expanded program with more services to the people of the county than any preceding year. These services included:

A. Non-financial services, and financial assistance from county funds: (1) 64 patients were given sanatorium care and treatment under the county program for financial assistance to indigent tubercular patients. There was a monthly average of 45 patients receiving care under this program; (2) Financial assistance for emergency hospital care was provided for 314 other indigent patients; (3) Labor certificates were issued for 104 minors under the age of 18 years; (4) Investigations were made on 47 applications for services under the vocational rehabilitation program to determine eligibility for services; (5) Parole services were given 39 parolees with an average of 28 served each month; (6) Services to individual children was the largest non-financial service program. These included juvenile court investigations, supervision of reform school parolees, supervision of probationers, foster home placements, adoptions, services to physically handicapped children, services to emotionally disturbed children, psychological examinations and school truancy services. Services were rendered more than 500 children; (7) Investigations for the courts. The sum of \$12,782.00 was paid through the welfare department to the families of men convicted of non-support and ordered by the courts to make regular payments to their families; (8) Financial assistance was given 173 applicants for general relief in the amount of \$6,849.21. This item included drugs, personal service, clothing, transportation, food. Clothing was the major item and was purchased for medical and mental patients and for children without adequate clothing to meet school attendance requirements; (9) The population at the County Home ranged from 20 to 23 persons. The Superintendent of Public Welfare, under the County Commissioners, has total supervision of the home. He does the purchasing, planning and maintenance, and also makes all investigations and reports on its operation.

Financial services from federal, state and county funds: More applications for assistance under financial assistance programs were received

and more rendered than in any previous year. (1) For Old Age Assistance, 479 applications were received during the fiscal year. Of these applications, 385 were approved and 188 found ineligible. On June 30, 1949, 688 persons received Old Age Assistance grants, and on June 30, 1948, this number had increased to 612. 124 cases were cancelled during the year, 64 of whom died, 4 were admitted to the County Home, 4 moved out of the county, 4 were put under Aid to the Blind program and 3 were admitted to institutions. The others were cancelled for various reasons, such as improved financial circumstances making them no longer in need of assistance. The average grant for OAA was \$18.50; (2) For Aid to Dependent Children, 130 applications were received. 76 were approved and 54 found ineligible. On June 30, 1949, 142 ABC grants were active, and on June 30, 1948, this num-

ber had increased to 206 cases, although 63 cases were cancelled during the year. The number of children benefiting from these grants on June 30, 1949, was 642. The average grant was \$30.60 per family; (3) There were 35 applications approved under the Aid to the Blind program during the year and 7 found ineligible. Eleven cases were cancelled. The case load was increased from 82 on June 30, 1948, to 100 on June 30, 1949. The average grant is \$39.00. Aid to the Blind services include the teaching of Braille, handicrafts, use of talking book pictures and training at centers for other vocational rehabilitation.

After 27 years, the welfare department moved from the third floor of the courthouse to more accessible quarters in the Skinner building. The new quarters make for more efficient service to the public.

The welfare department has received the very best cooperation in the operation of its program from the Board of County Commissioners, the welfare board, the health department, the Board of Education, the Judge of Juvenile Court, Clerk of Superior

Court, all county offices and departments, and such professional men as lawyers and physicians. Valued assistance has been received from in-

dividuals and civic and social organizations; particularly mentioning the Lions Clubs' services to the Aid to the Blind program.



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