

Public Assistance Costs Counties One Ninth Total Bill

Counties pay an average of one-ninth of the cost of public assistance in North Carolina, according to a breakdown of facts in a newly added feature in Public Welfare Statistics, a multilithed publication of the State Board of Public Welfare.

Of the three categories of public assistance to which the Federal, State and county governments contribute, aid to dependent children cost the counties less than an average of 9 per cent of the monthly payments in April, 1953. State and Federal government paid the remaining 91 per cent—the State paying less than 12 per cent and the Federal government paying about 79 per cent. The maximum monthly payment allowed are \$30 each for the first child and a responsible adult and \$21 for each additional child. Few get the maximum. The monthly average over the State is \$15.31 per person or \$56.79 per family of approximately four persons.

In old age assistance the county's share of cost on the average payment is about 10 per cent. The State pays a little more than 14 per cent and the Federal government pays nearly 76 per cent. The number receiving old age assistance is gradually declining despite the growing population 65 years of age and over. The maximum monthly payment is \$55 with few receiving that much. The average payment over the State is \$29.67.

The county pays about 14 per cent of the cost of monthly payments in aid to the permanently and totally disabled. The State pays about 15 per cent and the Federal government pays approximately 71 per cent. This is the newest public assistance program and takes care of many cases which had been provided for by county funds only through general assistance.

In general assistance the county pays 100 per cent of the cost of monthly payments to people in need. Most counties use general assistance to provide for emergency situations which do not qualify for any of the jointly financed programs. General assistance is also used until a person begins to receive assistance from one of the jointly financed plans for which he is found to be eligible. But for whatever purpose general assistance is used, the total cost of this program is paid out of county funds.

The breakdown of sources of public

assistance payments given in the current issue of the publication shows that in general the State and county share 50-50 in the amount of the payment not paid by the Federal government. In many counties less able to meet their share of the payments, the State gives added financial aid to the county through equalizing funds.

The Federal government pays approximately three-fourths of the cost of money payments to recipients in the three public assistance programs. The State pays nearly one-seventh of the cost, and the counties, on the average, pay about one-ninth.

June Milk Production In State At New High

Estimated milk production in North Carolina totaled 187 million pounds during June, the highest of record for June and only 2 million pounds short of the all-time high for any month which was set in May of this year when production reached 159 million pounds. Production during June, 1952 was 145 million pounds while the 1942-51 average for the month is 140 million pounds.

Milk production on U. S. farms passed its June peak somewhat earlier than usual this year, but continued at a relatively high level through the month. National output during June is estimated at 12.3 billion pounds, 4 per cent more than a year ago and the largest since 1947.

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