

# Welfare Recipients Sign to Work

Regulations under a new law that will require 1.5 million able-bodied welfare recipients to sign up for work or work training were issued today by Labor Secretary J. D. Hodgson and HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson. They take effect July 1.

Affected will be persons who receive or apply for AFDC—Aid to Families with Dependent Children. "More than eight out of ten will be mothers, because there are really few able-bodied male adults in the AFDC program," Secretary Richardson said.

About 800,000 persons now receiving welfare will be signed up by the end of the year as a condition for receiving aid. The rest will be signed up as they come in to apply for aid in the next 12 months.

The massive sign-up is actually an extension of the existing Work Incentive Program, a joint HEW-Labor plan to help welfare families become self-supporting.

Previously, the only individuals in the AFDC program required by the Federal law to be registered for the WIN program were unemployed fathers, children over 16 who are out of school, and volunteers.

The new regulations will require registration for work or job training of many additional persons among those applying for or receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

"But even some who are not required to sign up under the new law will do so anyhow," Secretary Richardson said, "because they want to go to work."

An estimated 300,000 mothers with children under six will make up the bulk of these "volunteers," he said.

Both Secretaries Hodgson and Richardson pointed out that there is more to getting a job than just signing up.

"In order to get work or train for a job," Secretary Hodgson said, "these women will need child care services, homemaker help, and perhaps home management, housing, family planning or other services."

Federal funds will pay for 90 percent of these employment-related services, he said. The new regulations call for special units to be set up in local welfare offices to help arrange for these services.

By next June, Secretary Hodgson estimated, local State Employment Services and other WIN agencies will have evaluated the work skills and developed employability plans for half the 1.5 million persons to sign up.

Those in job training will receive their full welfare allotment, plus \$30-a-month incentive pay.

Employers who hire WIN participants can also claim a first-year tax credit of 20 percent on wages paid them. The employees must remain employed a second full year, although if they quit, become disabled, or are fired for cause the credit can still be claimed.

States will benefit under the new law, receiving 90 per cent Federal aid for WIN-connected services instead of the present 75 per cent. Also the Federal share of manpower costs will increase from 80 to 90 per cent.

Although the new regulations become effective July 1, persons have 30 days to submit suggested revisions.

Comments on the HEW regulations should be sent to: SRS Administrator, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201. Comments

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on Labor regulations should go to Assistant Secretary for Manpower, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.

Comments received by HEW will be open for public inspection in Room 5121, HEW South Bldg., 330 C street, S.W. Comments received by Labor will be in Room 4424, Main Labor Bldg. 14th and Constitution, N.W.