

# Over 15 Million Get Public Assistance

A total of 15,070,000 persons received public assistance money payments in March, an increase of 212,000 over February, HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service reported.

The March figures showed that the number of recipients in the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) program stood at 10,929,000, up 120,000 from the preceding month; aid to the blind (AB) 80,500, up 100; aid to the totally and permanently disabled (APTD) 1,108,000, up 18,000; old age assistance (OAA) 2,015,000, unchanged from previous month; and general assistance (GA) 938,000, up 74,000.

Assistance payments in March for all these programs, including costs for medical assistance, totalled \$1,636,903,000 — an increase of almost \$88 million over February.

The SRS report noted that the rate of increase of persons receiving public assistance payments during the first nine of Fiscal 1972 was considerably below the levels set in the two preceding years.

During the period July 1971 through March 1972, the number of recipients increased by 732,000, a rise of 5.1 percent.

In similar periods of Fiscal 1971 and 1970, the rate of increase was 17.6 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively.