

benefits from other sources are adequate to meet their needs. Aid is also provided through institutional care for the elderly or infirm who do not require hospital care but who are unable to care for themselves; these are operated under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. Counselling, homemaker and other services are provided as necessary.

The Federal Government shares in the cost of social assistance and services administered by the provinces under the Canada Assistance Plan on a 50:50 basis. Shareable costs include: the costs of social assistance payments, maintenance payments for needy persons in homes for the aged and other welfare institutions, child welfare maintenance payments, health care costs for needy persons, and the costs of certain welfare services. The only criterion of eligibility specified in the Plan is that of need, irrespective of its cause. Rates of assistance and conditions of aid are set by the provinces.

The provinces also administer the three federal-provincial categorical programs of old age assistance, blind persons allowances and disabled persons allowances. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 per cent of \$75 a month or the allowance paid, whichever is less, for the old age assistance and disabled persons allowances, or 75 per cent of \$75 a month of the allowance paid, whichever is less, for blind persons allowances. To be eligible for an allowance under any of these programs, an applicant must meet the 10 years' residence requirement and the income requirements. Under the Old Age Assistance Act and the Disabled Persons Act, the total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,260 a year for an unmarried person, \$2,220 a year for a married couple or \$2,580 a year for a married couple when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act. Under the last-mentioned Act, the total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,500 a year for an unmarried person, \$1,980 a year for a person with no spouse but with one or more dependent children, \$2,580 for a married couple and \$2,700 a year for a married couple when both are blind.

A recipient of old age assistance is transferred to Old Age Security on reaching the eligible age, which in 1969 was 66 years. This program will disappear when the eligible age for Old Age Security is lowered to 65 years in 1970.

Five provinces have now merged some or all of these three programs with their general social assistance programs and allowances to the needy aged, blind, or disabled are determined, as for other social assistance recipients, on the basis of need.

Immigrants in their first year in Canada may receive aid through the local authority or they may be referred directly to the local office of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

### PART III - WELFARE SERVICES

General assistance to needy persons and the various welfare services associated with this form of aid, as well as the care of the aged and disabled and the protection and care of neglected and dependent children, are governed by provincial welfare legislation. Administrative and financial responsibility is shared by the province and its municipalities, with federal reimbursement for half the costs of assistance and of certain welfare services being made