

assistance programs; three of these provinces have similarly merged blind persons' allowances. In these provinces, allowances to the needy 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

Social 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 under the Canada Assistance Plan. Provincial administration of welfare is carried out through the department of public welfare or social development in each province. In some provinces municipalities administer assistance to persons with short-term need.

As a result of the extensions of federal sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan, provincial departments of welfare are giving increased attention to the improvement of standards of administration and to the development of rehabilitation and other services designed to alleviate or prevent dependency. Also, the availability of federal aid under the national welfare grants program for staff-training, bursaries, and research and demonstration projects has enabled them to strengthen their welfare services.

Institutional care for the aged and infirm is provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. A number of provinces make capital grants to municipalities, voluntary organizations or limited-dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing for elderly persons.

Child-welfare services, including protection, foster care and adoption services, are provided by provincial welfare departments or, in some provinces, by children's aid societies. Particular emphasis is being placed on preventive services to children in their own homes. Day nurseries for the children of working mothers are established only in the larger centres, where they are chiefly under voluntary auspices, except in Ontario, where there are also municipally-sponsored day nurseries which receive provincial grants.

A number of voluntary agencies also contribute to community welfare, including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups and released prisoners. Family welfare agencies or combined family-and-child-welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer case-work services to families in need of