

1973 ANNUAL REPORT



County of Oakland
Michigan Department of Social Services

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

R. BERNARD HOUSTON, Director

OAKLAND COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
196 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

The Honorable Board of Commissioners
County of Oakland, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:


The Oakland County Board of Social Services is pleased to present to you our report of activities and expenditures incurred in behalf of the citizens of Oakland County for the calendar year of 1973.

Our report attempts to provide a synopsis of the multitude of programs and services administered by the department.

Favorable economic conditions in the county during the first ten months of the year enabled the department to reduce expenditures from the previous year. The last two months showed a sharp rise in requests for various types of assistance as a result of the economic dislocations created by the "Energy Crisis." Indications are that unemployment will continue to rise well into 1974.

The Board and staff of the Department wish to express our appreciation for the excellent cooperation and support received from the Board of Commissioners during 1973. We look forward to your continued support during 1974.

Respectfully submitted,
Oakland County Board of Social Services


Anne Rumsey, Chairman
Ray W. Lahti, Member
Howard L. Dell, Member

Howard E. Rosso, Director



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FORWARD

The Oakland County Department of Social Services is a multi-purpose agency providing financial and social services to the citizens of Oakland County. The three member Board of Social Services establishes policy for those programs which are funded with an annual appropriation from the Board of Commissioners. The Michigan Department of Social Services establishes the policies and assistance standards for programs funded from state and federal appropriations.

The primary objective of the department is to provide indigent residents of the county with necessary financial assistance and those social services which will help the client to achieve his or her maximum potential for self-support and independence.

The department provides many services to clientele without regard to their financial status. Some of these services are:

1. Information and Referral Services.

This would include information about services provided by the Social Services Department, as well as other public and private agencies throughout the county.

2. Investigation of all reported cases of child abuse.
3. Adoption homefinding and placement, particularly of hard to place children.
4. Licensing of Foster Homes.
5. Child Day Care Licensing.
6. Assisting the state mental institutions and families with the placement of patients who are ready to be released in appropriate community facilities.
7. Assisting families with locating and arranging for placement of patients in skilled or basic nursing homes.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1973

In January, the Administrative offices of the Oakland County Department of Social Services were moved from the County Service Center at 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, to newly rennovated and larger quarters at 196 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac. The relocation has provided many of the clients with a more accessible office. In addition, the extensively remodeled building has provided the staff with less congested and more efficient working conditions.

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program was implemented in April, 1973. This program provides comprehensive health screening to all recipients of the Medical Assistance Program under 21 years of age. The service is provided under a cooperative agreement with the Oakland County Health Department.

The shelter maximum for family cases was adjusted from \$100.00 to \$135.00, per month, during the year. This increase was necessary as one effort to enable indigent families to find shelter during a period when rents were increasing rapidly. The inventory of adequate housing within Public Assistance funding standards continues to be limited. Resolution of this community problem should be given high priority by all levels of government.

The enactment of the legislation by the U.S. Congress which created the Supplemental Security Income Program to replace the Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Disabled and Aid to the Blind Programs, necessitated tremendous administrative effort by staff to prepare for the orderly transfer of these cases by December 31, 1973. The project was completed on schedule. Only a very small percentage of the cases did not receive their check on schedule or with an incorrect grant.

The clerical support and accounting units of the department were reorganized in October into an Administrative Services Division. The purpose of this reorganization was to improve the coordination between various clerical and accounting functions and achieve greater efficiency from the available staff.

At the instigation of the Oakland County Social Services Board, Oakland County was designated in November, 1973 as one of the three counties in Michigan to serve in a pilot project for the sale of food stamps through the U.S. Post Offices. This program began early in 1974. It will enable eligible clients to purchase their food stamps at 23 widely disbursed locations throughout the county in addition to the two sales outlets maintained by the department. This extension of services was the result of the cooperative efforts of the State Department of Social Services and the Board of Social Services following several years of efforts to make the Food Stamp Program more accessible to the clientele to be served.

OAKLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Oakland County Department of Social Services is financed with federal, state, and county funds. During the 1973 calendar year assistance to residents of Oakland County required approximately 63 million dollars.

The funding pattern has been changing during the past several years. Expanded state and federal programs, and increased "matching" funds have resulted in the federal and state governments providing a greater proportion of total resources.

A breakdown of the above expenditures of federal, state, and county funds follows:

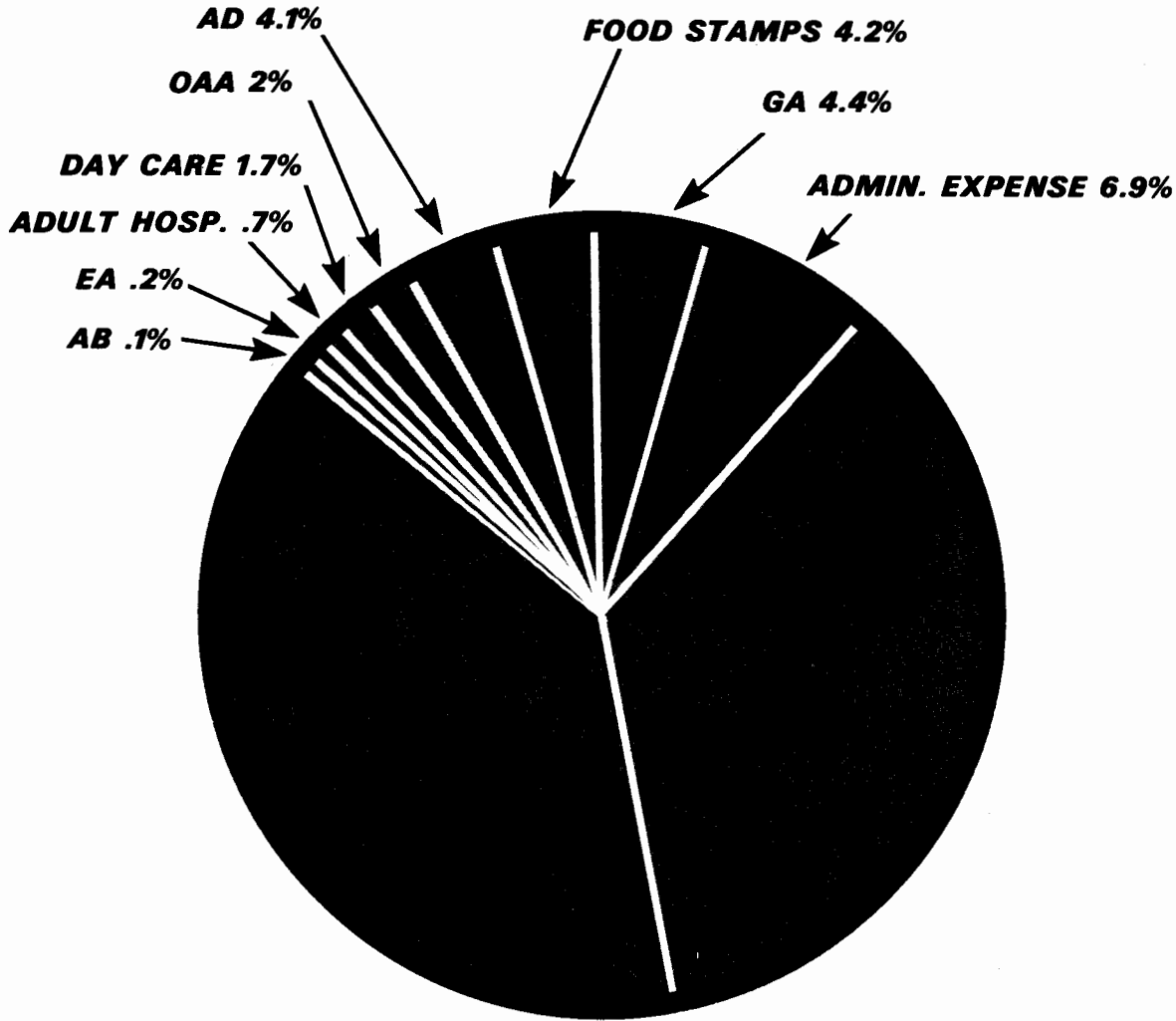
SUMMARY OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN 1973

	Federal and State Funds	County Funds
Old Age Assistance	\$ 1,268,013.08	\$
Aid to the Disabled	2,650,799.90	
Aid to the Blind	76,310.20	
Aid to Dependent Children	24,817,348.60	
Emergency Assistance	171,666.76	
Medical Assistance*	22,757,148.00	
Day Care	1,134,032.56	
Food Stamps	2,688,926.00	
General Assistance	1,108,520.76	1,679,545.59
Adult Hospitalization		494,965.74
Administrative Expense	<u>4,270,743.83</u>	<u>106,075.57</u>
TOTAL	\$61,438,475.52	\$ 2,280,586.90**
GRAND TOTAL		\$63,224,096.68

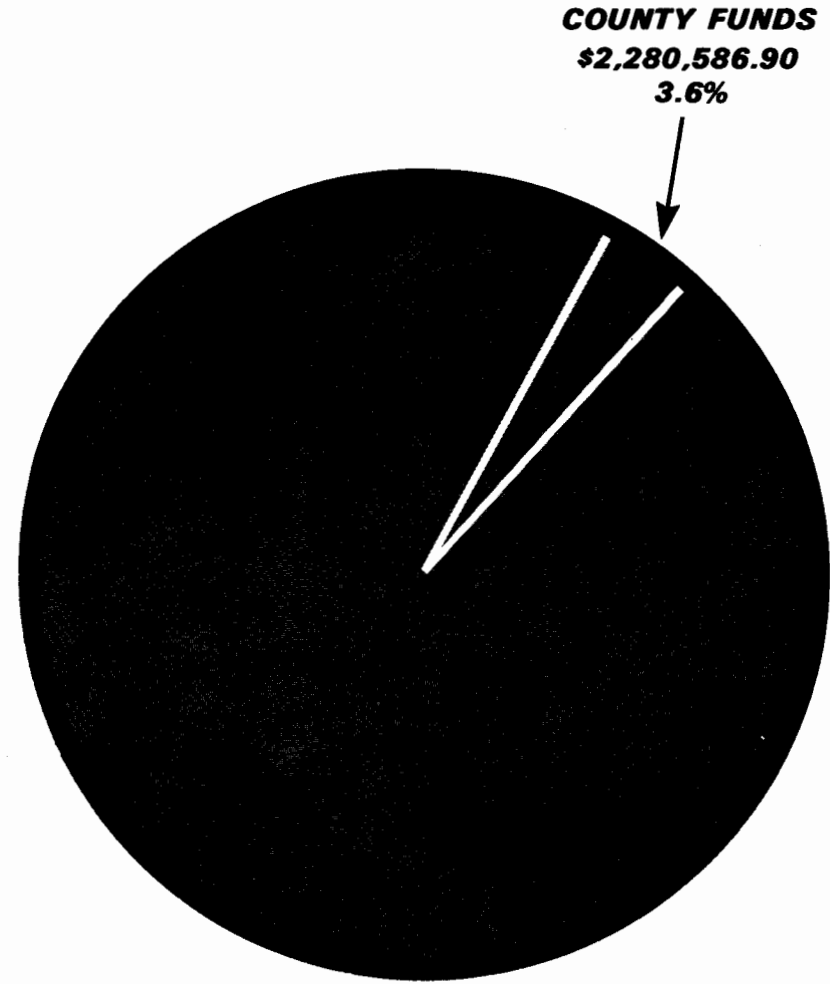
*Using \$482.00 per eligible person as estimated statewide average cost per person per month.

**Includes Credited Receipts of \$32,037.28.

EXPENDITURES AND SOURCES OF FUNDS



EXPENDITURES
\$63,224,096.68



SOURCES OF FUNDS
\$63,224,096.68

ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES

At the end of the 1973 calendar year Oakland County Department of Social Services had 343 employees. During the year the number of employees assigned was decreased by 10 employees as a result of the decline in caseloads during the early part of the year. The increased number of cases during the last two months of the year will undoubtedly require additional employees in the near future to provide efficient management of the caseloads. Since the close of the 1971 calendar year the number of employees has increased by 56 or 19%.

The administrative cost is shared by the county and state according to the amount of time spent on county programs. This item also includes board members' salaries and expense costs.

The county share of the cost of administration for 1973 is \$102,842.79 as compared to \$643,453.97 in 1971. The county paid 24.5% of administrative costs in 1971, and 2.3% of such costs in 1973.

The information is detailed in the following tabulations and chart.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

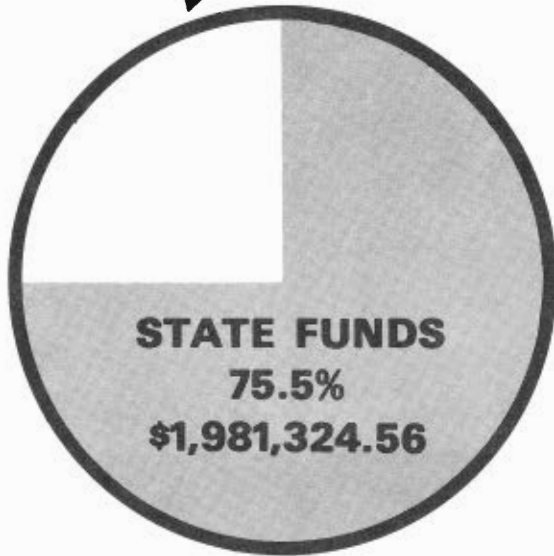
	TOTAL	COUNTY	STATE
Dec. 31, 1972	\$1,154,692.83	\$ 48,216.64(4.3%)	\$1,106,476.19
March 31, 1973	1,138,064.75	46,790.42(4.2%)	1,091,274.33
June 30, 1973	1,235,556.38	48,007.63(3.9%)	1,187,549.75
Sept. 30, 1973	848,504.44	28,404.96(3.5%)	820,099.48
	\$4,376,819.40	\$171,419.65	\$4,205,399.75
Less State Matching 40%		\$ 68,567.86	
		\$102,851.79	

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY FUNDS

24.5%

\$643,453.97



1971

COUNTY FUNDS

7.0%

\$231,514.33



1972

COUNTY FUNDS

2.3%

\$102,851.79



1973

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assistance Program provides financial aid to indigent persons in accordance with standards established by the Oakland County Board of Social Services. The assistance provided includes food, clothing, shelter, fuel, utilities, necessary household supplies, out-patient medical, dental, drugs, nursing care and other necessities. The county is reimbursed by the Michigan Department of Social Services for 40 per cent of the expenditures for the program.

The General Assistance grants to clients were adjusted during the year to maintain parity with the state standards for categorical aid. These adjustments were necessary to reflect the increased cost of food and other basic necessities.

Despite the increase in the assistance grants, expenditure for General Assistance were 11.9 per cent less than the previous year due to the decreased caseload during 1973.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	Per Cent Increase or Decrease From <u>1972</u>
Average Monthly Caseload	1672	2069	-19
Single Person Cases	1283	1509	-14.9
Cases with Children	389	560	-30.5
Average Monthly Grant	\$121.85	\$113.32	- 7.5

SOCIAL SERVICES
GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND REPORT

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
<u>BUDGET</u>		
General Relief	\$2,233,000.00	\$2,650,000.00
Hospitalization	515,000.00	425,000.00
Relief Administration	255,000.00	495,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Department Budget	\$3,003,000.00	\$3,570,000.00
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
General Relief	\$2,788,066.35	\$3,151,864.77
Hospitalization	494,965.74	431,008.14
Relief Administration	176,792.61	391,425.27
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Expenditure	\$3,459,824.62	\$3,974,298.18
LESS STATE MATCHING	\$1,179,237.72	\$1,399,717.45
OTHER CREDITS	32,037.28	24,594.32
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,211,275.00	\$1,424,311.77
TOTAL COUNTY EXPENDITURES	\$2,248,549.62	\$2,549,986.41
BUDGET BALANCE	\$ 754,450.38	\$1,020,013.59

1973
 SOCIAL SERVICES
 GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND REPORT
 (RELIEF EXPENDITURES)

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Appliances & Furniture	\$ 2,151.19	\$ 409.95
Burials	44,100.30	35,054.10
Cash Relief	315,015.35	309,545.53
Child Care	663.00	239.00
Clothing	69,637.20	69,850.68
Drugs & Medicals	209,898.38	227,095.87
Food	763,257.58	1,047,007.02
Food Stamp Program	36,217.87	30,670.87
Fuel	18,639.63	19,575.67
Household Repairs	8,118.03	8,511.83
Incidentals	616.79	786.32
Nursing Home Care	6,817.50	10,141.63
Rent	922,151.70	977,531.77
Room & Board	159,744.03	148,686.73
Transportation	5,894.16	6,482.23
Utilities	143,027.90	153,633.78
Volunteer Program	*	6,000.00
Supp: Non-Matchable	19,625.60	37,996.42
Matchable	51,046.75	62,645.35
Foster Care	11,443.39	11,373.06
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GROSS EXPENDITURE	\$2,788,066.35	\$3,163,237.81

*Funds not transferred prior to end of fiscal year.

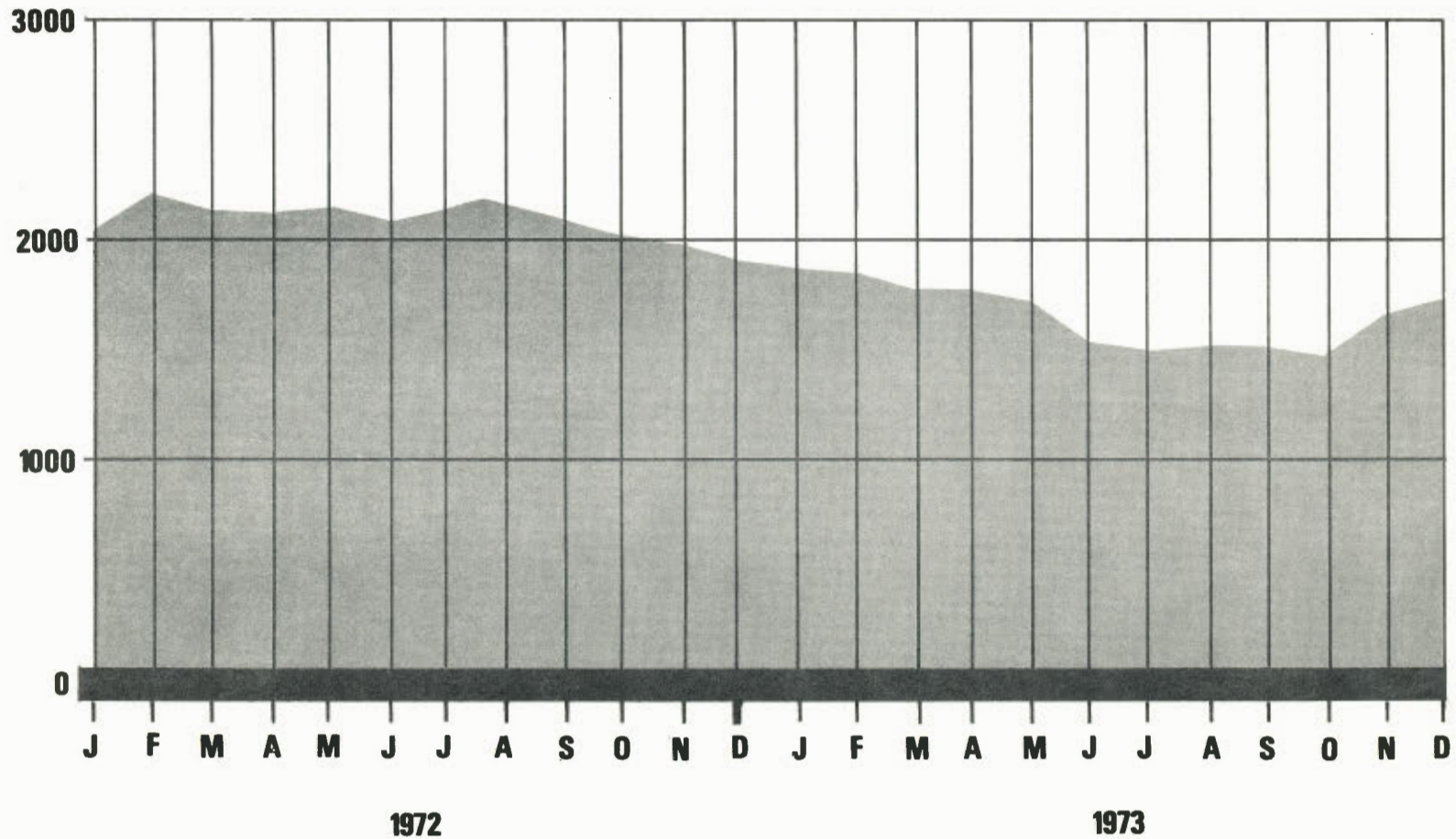
GENERAL ASSISTANCE: INCLUDING MEDICAL AND BURIAL

CASES AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS
(OTHER THAN MEDICAL AND BURIAL COSTS)

MEDICAL AND BURIAL COSTS

MONTH	NUMBER OF CASES	TOTAL AMOUNT	AVERAGE PER CASE	NUMBER BURIALS	COST BURIALS	MEDICAL COST
January 1973	1,838	\$ 194,800.88	\$105.99	15	\$ 5,942.41	\$ 13,647.67
February 1973	1,837	228,436.70	124.35	7	3,185.18	18,513.26
March 1973	1,769	227,185.20	128.43	8	2,860.00	15,874.74
April 1973	1,761	200,529.78	113.87	4	2,008.00	14,322.22
May 1973	1,635	201,065.88	122.98	10	3,400.00	14,741.28
June 1973	1,522	192,713.99	126.62	9	3,262.32	20,226.35
July 1973	1,521	187,803.94	123.47	11	3,985.00	16,597.82
August 1973	1,575	189,404.19	120.26	13	4,418.90	15,429.83
September 1973	1,476	189,201.97	128.19	6	2,608.30	17,644.21
October 1973	1,648	192,038.76	116.53	11	4,364.74	20,375.43
November 1973	1,682	214,981.10	127.81	9	3,187.85	17,276.22
December 1973	1,811	224,175.83	123.79	11	4,877.60	25,249.35
TOTAL		\$2,442,338.22		114	\$44,100.30	\$209,898.38
MONTHLY AVERAGE	1,672	\$ 203,528.00	\$121.85	9	\$ 3,675.02	\$ 17,491.53

GENERAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVE CASELOAD (EXCLUSIVE OF MEDICAL AND BURIAL)



ADULT HOSPITALIZATION

The Adult Hospitalization Program provides in-patient medical and surgical services to Oakland County residents who meet the eligibility requirements established by the Board of Social Services. The services are provided to low-income persons who are not eligible for the State Medicaid Program.

There was a 9.7 per cent decrease in the number of persons requiring assistance under this program during 1973 as compared with 1972. However, expenditures increased by 14.8 per cent from the preceeding year. This can be attributed to the fact that the daily rate of reimbursement to hospitals was adjusted to the same rate that is paid under the State Medicaid Program. The average length of hospital stay per patient increased slightly during 1973. These combined factors increased the average cost per patient by \$268.63.

The cost of this program is funded entirely from County appropriations. Persons who are provided assistance under the hospitalization program are required to sign a reimbursement agreement. The recipient is expected to reimburse the department when they have returned to employment or obtain other resources.

SOCIAL SERVICES HOSPITALIZATION FUND

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	Percent Increase or Decrease From <u>1972</u>
Budget	\$515,000.00	\$425,000.00	+21.1
Receipts on Account	5,186.35	6,193.00	-16.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total Available	\$520,186.35	\$431,193.00	+20.6
Expenditures:			
Hospitals	\$457,853.76	\$390,232.24	+17.3
Physicians	37,111.98	40,710.26	- 8.8
Miscellaneous	-0-	65.64	NA
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total Expenditures	\$494,965.74	\$431,008.14	+14.8
Budget Balance	\$ 25,220.61	\$ 184.86	
No. of Cases	393	435	- 9.6
No. of Patient Days	4014	4153	- 3.3
Average No. Patient Days	10.22	9.55	+ 7
Average Cost Per Case	\$1259.45	\$990.82	+27.1
Average Cost per Day	\$123.29	\$103.78	+18.7

WORK PROJECTS PROGRAM

The Work Projects Program was established in October of 1972 by the Oakland County Board of Social Services under the provisions of Act No. 280 of the Public Acts of 1939 as amended. The most relevant parts of this act are as follows:

"Require employable persons to work on work relief or work training projects if available, in return for relief given. All work relief projects authorized by this section shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Any person required to work on a work relief project, upon claiming to be physically incapable to work when so assigned, shall be given a thorough medical examination by competent medical authorities to ascertain his fitness to do work required on work relief projects, and
- (2) Each person assigned to work relief project shall be required to register for employment with the Michigan employment service if such service is available and to investigate all bona fide employment opportunities.

Determine that each employable applicant, mentally and physically able to work is not currently refusing to accept available employment for which wages not less than the going rate of the community for the kind of employment are being offered."

When the private sector of the economy is unable to absorb all the persons who are seeking employment, it becomes necessary for society to provide for the necessities of life through our welfare system. The work projects program provides the unemployed individual with an opportunity to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of his community in return for the assistance provided. In a sense, the Department of Social Services becomes the employer of last resort. The project provides the unemployed person with an opportunity to maintain or acquire regular work habits. A client's morale will remain at a higher level until he can obtain private employment, than if he were completely idle.

The hours of work assigned are based on the assistance requirements of the family or individual computed at the rate of \$2.50, per hour. It should be noted that assistance allowances represent net income, as there are no deductions for federal, state or city income taxes, Social Security or health insurances.

During the 1973-74 year the program's project sites were expanded to include Berkley, Hazel Park, Farmington, Madison Heights, Troy, Rochester, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Pontiac, Keego Harbor, Huntington Woods, and Springfield Township.

It is hoped that the department will be able to establish work relief projects for employable women during 1974. Up to this time all of the projects have been for employable males.

WORK PROJECTS PROGRAM
STATISTICAL DATA

A total of 53 men worked 3,688.5 hours on work projects.

Total number of referrals made to the program	1,024
Number of women scheduled for medical examinations (included in total number of referrals)	214
Cases closed for clients' failure to report for medical examinations	311
Cases closed for clients' failure to report for work projects	135
Cases closed for reasons not related to the work projects program	296

STATE-FEDERAL PROGRAMS

State-Federal assistance programs are administered by the Department in addition to the County programs previously described. The County does not directly participate in the financing of these operations other than providing building space.

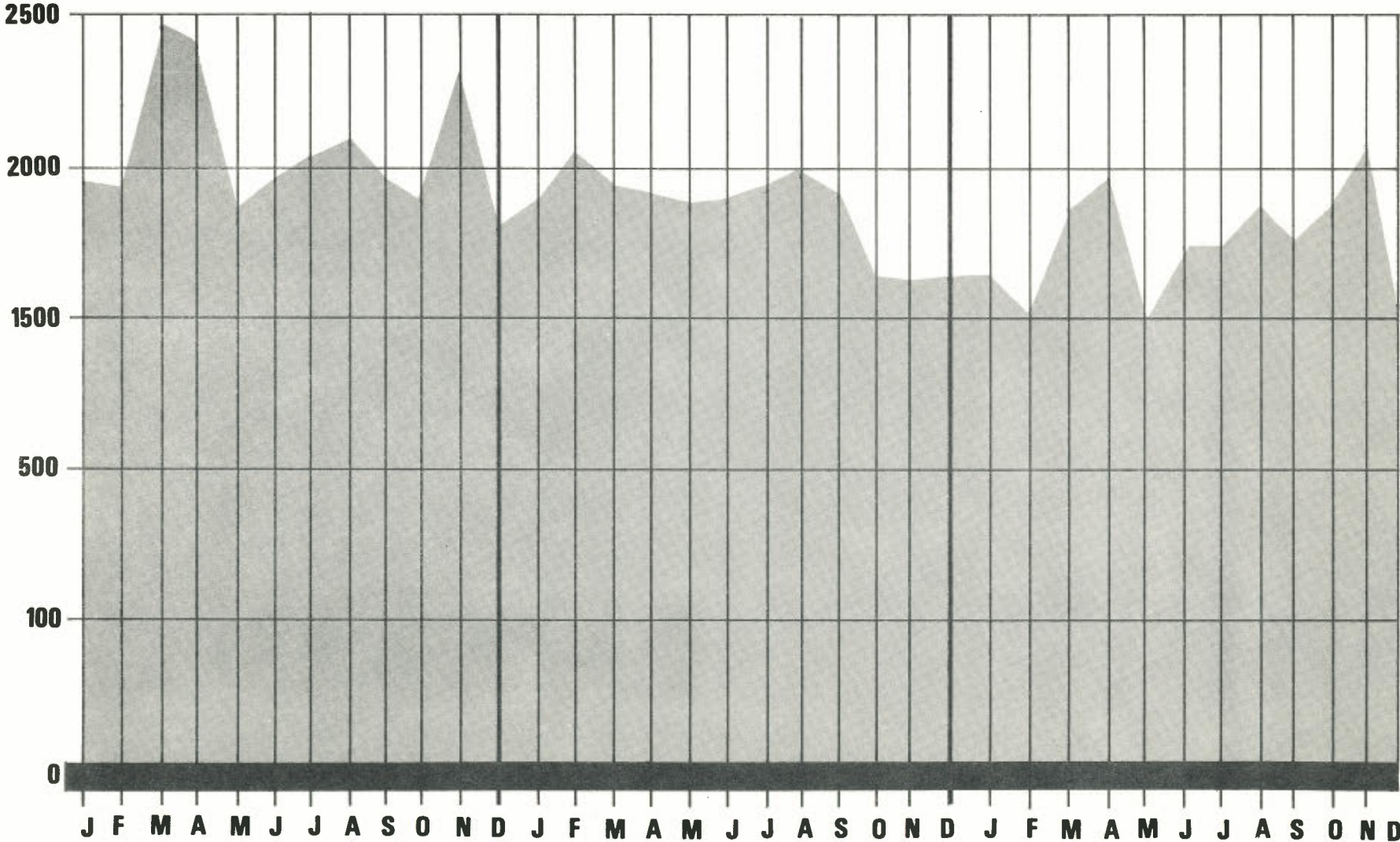
The State-Federal segment consists chiefly of the four "categorical assistance" programs, Medical assistance and Food Stamps. The four categories are Old Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Disabled (AD), Aid to the Blind (AB), and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC). Medical assistance is provided under the State Medicaid program.

Federal-State policy requires that the Department employ both Assistance Payments (AP) workers and Service workers to administer the above programs. AP workers specialize in determining eligibility for financial assistance. Services workers specialize in providing the guidance and services which may be needed for adjustment to circumstances and for progress toward self-sufficiency whenever possible.

Preparations were made during the last half of the year to transfer the OAA, AB, and AD programs to the Social Security Administration effective January 1, 1974. This is a result of the enactment of Public Law 92-603 which established "a national program to provide supplemental security income to individuals who have attained age 65 or are blind or disabled". By transferring these programs to be administered by a federal agency the financial assistance provided to eligible persons will be uniform nationwide. The new program is entitled Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

MONTHLY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REQUESTS



1971

1972

1973

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

The Old Age Assistance Program is a program for persons 65 years of age or older who have insufficient income and resources to provide for the necessities of life. The increased cost of living on relatively fixed incomes has depleted the resources of many of our senior citizens.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Increase or Decrease from 1972</u>
Average Monthly Caseload	1,645	1,761	-6.6%
Average Monthly Grant	\$ 64.21	\$ 68.43	-6.2%
Total Expenditure	\$1,268,013.08	\$1,445,861.51	-12.3%

The primary reason for these reductions can be attributed to recent increases in Social Security benefits.

Length of Time on Assistance

Less than 1 year	8 per cent
1 - 3 years	35 per cent
Over 3 years	57 per cent

Age of Recipients

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent of Caseload</u>
Under 70	21.9 per cent
71 - 75	30.7 per cent
76 - 80	19.0 per cent
81 - 90	23.1 per cent
91 - 95	4.3 per cent
96 - 100	.005 per cent
Over 100	.003 per cent

Mean age - 76 years

AID TO THE BLIND

The Aid to the Blind Program provides assistance to persons who are at least 16 years of age and have a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction. In addition, the applicant must meet the income and financial resource limitations of the program to qualify for the program.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Increase or Decrease from 1972</u>
Average Monthly Caseload	64	58	+10.3%
Average Monthly Grant	\$ 99.67	\$ 104.64	- 4.7%
Total Expenditures	\$76,310.20	\$72,969.21	+ 4.5%

LENGTH OF TIME ON ASSISTANCE

Less than 1 year	10%
1 - 3 years	48%
Over 3 years	42%

AGE OF RECIPIENTS

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent of Caseload</u>
Under 21	10%
21 - 30	28%
31 - 40	07%
41 - 50	18%
51 - 60	18%
61 - 65	12%
Over 65	07%

AID TO THE DISABLED

The Aid to the Disabled Program provides assistance for individuals who are 18 years, or over, who have an injury, illness, or other disability which prevents the person from engaging in a useful occupation in the foreseeable future. The recipient must qualify for assistance by meeting income and resource requirements of the program.

All applicants must undergo a medical examination. The medical reports are reviewed by the local medical consultant prior to approval of the case.

Vocational rehabilitation services are provided to those individuals who will benefit from such service.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Increase or Decrease from 1972</u>
Average Monthly Caseload	2,021	1,797	+12.4%
Average Monthly Grant	\$ 109.09	\$ 108.84	+ Less than 1%
Total Expenditure	\$2,650,799.90	\$2,346,635.22	+12.9%

Length of Time on Assistance

Less than 1 year	21%
1 - 3 years	53%
Over 3 years	26%

Age of Recipients

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent of Caseload</u>
Under 21 years	3.5%
21 - 30 years	18.3%
31 - 40 years	11.4%
41 - 50 years	15.4%
51 - 60 years	31.4%
61 - 65 years	15.5%
Over 65 years	04.0%

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The Aid to Dependent Children program provides financial assistance to those children who are deprived of parental support through the death of one or both parents, continued absence of a parent from the home, incapacity of a parent, or unemployment of the father. The family must meet certain eligibility requirements associated with age, residency, presence in the home of a specified relative, cooperate in securing support from responsible relatives and the income and property limitations.

The County experienced a decline in the Aid to Dependent Children caseload between January and June, 1973. There was a gradual increase in the caseload during the last six months of the year. This caseload trend was comparable to the experience in other areas of the State. An analysis of the data relating to the program indicates the principle decline was in the Aid to Dependent Children-Unemployment cases. The high rate of employment in the county during the first nine months of 1973 was the major factor for reducing the caseload.

A review of the Aid to Dependent Children caseload in March, 1973 revealed that 17 per cent of the cases had earned income which averaged \$261.00, per month.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Increase or Decrease from 1972</u>
	<u>1/</u>		
Average Total No. Recipients	29,929	31,727	-5.6
Average No. of Adults	8,541	9,225	-7.4
Average No. of Children	21,387	22,502	-4.9
Average No. of cases	9,008	9,108	-1.1
Average Monthly Grant	\$ 229.30	\$ 238.58	-3.8
Total Expenditures	\$24,817,348.60	\$26,072,989.72	-4.8

ADC-U

Average Total No. Recipients	2,214	3,562	-37.8
Average No. of Children	1,330	2,118	-37.2
Average No. of Adults	884	1,444	-38.8
Average Monthly Grant	\$ 342.50	\$ 328.53	+ 4.3
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,819,499.08	\$ 2,922,035.50	-37.6

1/ This includes the ADC-U segment of the program.

Length of Time on Assistance

Less than 1 year	22 per cent
1-3 years	61 per cent
Over 3 years	17 per cent

Age of Aid to Dependent Children Grantee

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage of Caseload</u>
Under 18	.5 per cent
18 - 21	13.9 per cent
22 - 25	20.6 per cent
26 - 30	20.9 per cent
31 - 40	26.8 per cent
41 - 50	5.9 per cent

Mean Age 31

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

All recipients of public assistance under the federal-state categorical aid programs are eligible for medical assistance benefits. An additional number of persons who are financially self-sufficient to meet their regular living expenses but are unable to meet expensive medical needs are also eligible. Comprehensive medical care is provided which includes: hospital care, skilled and basic nursing home care, physicians services, prescriptions, physical therapy, home health care, ambulance service, laboratory services, and dental care for children.

Providers of medical care are reimbursed directly by the Michigan Department of Social Services.

Over half of the beneficiaries of the medical assistance program are over 65 years of age. Many of these people require long term care in skilled and basic nursing homes. The cost of such care over a prolonged period of time presents a financial burden which quickly exhausts the savings and limited income of a vast majority of our citizens.

NUMBER OF CASES ELIGIBLE
FOR
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ONLY

<u>Type of Case</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Increase or Decrease from 1972</u>
Average No. of cases, age 65 and over	2,418	2,267	+ 6.6
Average No. of cases, blind	8	6	+33.3
Average No. of cases, disabled	439	416	+17.5
Average No. of cases, families with dependent children	77	74	+ 4.0
Average No. of cases, other children Under 21 years of age	940	857	+ 9.6
Average total No. of medical cases	3,934	3,618	+ 8.7

LENGTH OF TIME ON ASSISTANCE

Less than 1 year	29.0 per cent
1 - 3 years	46.0 per cent
Over 3 years	26.0 per cent

AGE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

<u>AGE</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>			<u>ADC GRANTEE</u>	<u>ADC CHILDREN</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF CASELOAD</u>
	<u>OAA</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>AD</u>			
Over 100	6					.01
96-100	29					.06
91-95	148					3.2
81-90	1,029					22.0
76-80	518					11.0
71-75	466					10.0
65-70	220	1	43			5.7
61-64		3	133			2.9
51-60		1	179	16		4.0
41-50		2	68	25		2.0
31-40		1	33	15		1.0
21-30		1	40	21		1.3
19-20			3	6	523	11.6
17-18					222	4.8
13-16					251	5.4
10-12					134	2.9
6-9					181	3.9
3-5					142	3.0
Under 3					131	2.8

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FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The Food Stamp program of the United States Department of Agriculture is administered in Michigan by the State Department of Social Services. The purpose of this program is to assist low income families to increase their consumption of food and the quality of their diets. Under this plan, eligible families exchange their food money for food coupons of higher monetary value. The bonus, or free coupons, paid by the Federal government, increases the food purchasing power of the household.

Significant procedural modifications were effected in conjunction with Oakland County Data Processing to provide a more accurate and more responsive system of delivery of Food Stamp services in 1973. Among the most important was the implementation of a redesigned purchase card, allowing a faster and more accountable issuance of stamps.

On November 16, 1973, the United Postal Service and the Michigan Department of Social Services entered a contract whereby Food Stamps would be sold at various post offices. On February 1, 1974, Oakland and two other counties are scheduled as the first Michigan counties to implement the sale of Food Stamps through local post offices.

The Federal government has reduced the dollar amount of bonus coupons issued from approximately 45% of total value in early 1972 to an average of 37.9% in 1973. This, coupled with more stringent Federal eligibility requirements, has resulted in a 12.2% reduction in the number of households participating in this program and a 15.4% reduction in the total dollar value of stamps issued.

It should be noted that a substantial increase in participation by public assistance clients occurred in the last two months of the year. This can be attributed to the dramatic rise in food and fuel costs which occurred at this time, thus placing severe pressures on clients with limited income.

It is hoped that the department can develop a program whereby applications for Food Stamps and eligibility reviews can be taken at locations throughout the county during 1974. This action together with the widespread location of post office sales sites should enable many more handicapped persons and senior citizens derive the benefits of this program.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Percent Decrease or Increase from 1972</u>
Average No. of households, total program	6,354	7,240	-12.2%
Average No. of persons	19,264	24,358	-20.9%
Average No. of public assistance households	5,210	5,951	-12.5%
Average No. of persons on public assistance	16,241	20,369	-20.3%
Average No. of non-public assistance households	1,144	1,289	-11.2%
Average No. of non-public assistance persons	3,023	3,990	-24.2%
Total Value of Food Stamps issued	\$7,077,047	\$8,164,994	-13.3%
Purchase cost to participants	4,388,121	4,828,502	- 9.1%
Bonus value of food stamps	2,688,926	3,336,492	-19.4%
Percent of bonus value to total sold	37.9%	39.98%	- 2.08%
Average monthly bonus, per person	\$11.73	\$11.17	5.0%

COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

At the beginning of 1972 the department entered into a cooperative agreement with the Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney and the Friend of the Court. This agreement provided funds from federal and state sources to enable these county offices to employ additional staff to enforce laws which are beneficial to the effective and efficient administration of the Social Services programs.

The purpose of the agreement with the Friend of the Court is to provide enforcement of existing child support orders for public assistance clients.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	PERCENT INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM <u>1972</u>
Support Orders	676	343	+97
Support Collections by Friend of the Court	\$2,233,427.49	\$1,898,833.78	+17.6
Support Orders in Force	4,616	3,759	+22.7

Child support which is collected by the Friend of the Court is transmitted to the Michigan Department of Social Services for those clients who are receiving assistance through the Aid to Dependent Children program. These funds are then credited to the clients' account, thereby reducing the tax funds required to support the individual family.

The Cooperative Reimbursement agreement with the County Prosecutor provides for legal representation for the client and the department in matters of paternity, child support and welfare fraud.

This program provided the impetus for the intensive efforts to reduce the incidence of welfare fraud in Oakland County during the year.

The Department of Social Services must provide necessary financial assistance to applicants promptly if we are to fulfill the needs of the client as well as the legal mandate. To accomplish this objective the department must sacrifice some administrative controls which would reduce the number of persons who are not eligible to receive public assistance. The alternative would be to require detailed verifications prior to the receipt of assistance. This process is time consuming and could result in some cases of extreme hardship to the applicant.

COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (CONT.)

When a complaint is received from a citizen or it is apparent to the caseworker that a client may be involved in the fraudulent receipt of public assistance a referral is made to the Inspector General's office of the Michigan Department of Social Services. Two investigators from this unit are assigned to Oakland County. When the investigators complete their investigation if they find that the client may have received assistance under false pretenses they then refer the case to the Prosecutor's office for appropriate legal action.

1973

No. of Cases Referred to Inspector General	669
No. of Cases Found to be Inappropriate Referrals	126
Cases Investigated and Found to be Eligible	239
Cases Investigated and Found to be Ineligible	179
Prosecution Recommended	47
Settled Out of Court	118
Prosecution Declined for Reasons other than Out of Court Settlement	40

SERVICE PROGRAMS

In addition to the monetary problems associated with the need for food, clothing and shelter, the Department recognizes the need for certain non-monetary assistance. The Service Programs are designed to provide the guidance and services necessary to enable the client to maximize his or her potential for self-sufficiency and adjustment within the community. To this end, the characteristics which have to be taken into consideration are: age, health, employability, education, family size, and motivation. The family is considered to be the primary unit within which adjustment patterns can be accomplished and is therefore united and strengthened whenever possible.

The following section describes the programs which have been developed to accomplish the above goals.

INTAKE INFORMATION AND
REFERRAL SERVICES

The Intake Services Unit is staffed with six Services caseworkers. Their function, as mandated by the Social Services Act, is to provide information and referral services to anyone who visits or phones the Agency. Counselling or referral services are available for troubled teenagers and for problems of family relationships, abortion, foster care, adoption, child custody, child abuse and neglect, family planning, legal problems (including support and guardianship), physical and mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, adult placement, housing, adult education, training, transportation, and catastrophic emergencies.

In the past twelve months a total of 4,881 clients have been interviewed in Services Intake regarding various problems. Some of these problems are resolved by the Services Intake Unit. Many are referred to various Service Units within the Department of Social Services or to other agencies. An average of 35 telephone inquiries are received each day.

BASIC FAMILY SERVICES

The largest number of clientele served by this department is the Aid to Dependent Children families. There were several thousand requests made for the help of services workers to aid families in identifying problems and directing them to appropriate sources of assistance when it was determined that assistance was actually required.

Areas of concern identified included housing problems; need for medical attention or equipment; furniture; transportation; as well as requests for help with food when crises arose which required the client expending funds ordinarily granted to cover food costs.

Numerous community agencies, including churches and private organizations were utilized by staff to assist clientele during emergencies.

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Services provides social services support for the aged, blind, and disabled. Adult Services is also responsible for administering the Alternate Care program (Adult Foster Care, Basic Nursing Care, and Skilled Nursing Care).

As of February, 1973 priorities were changed in the placement of individuals into Adult Foster Care homes and Nursing homes. At this point, emphasis was placed on the community requests as opposed to the institutional requests which had previously taken precedence. It was felt that a person in his own home requiring supervision or nursing home care should have priority over one already institutionalized and receiving care. In addition, Adult Services can maximize the opportunity for preventing further influxes into more expensive institutions. Weekly reports of vacancies and pending applications in each level of care are provided to the regional office. This allows inter-county placements.

By June, 1973 two full time placement workers were accepting requests from the community and the institutions. We were placing three community people to one from the institutions, partly because of the priorities and partly because the hospitals and agencies in the community were now becoming aware of the Department of Social Services, or the Single Placement Agency, as we were designated by our State Office.

During 1973, we had 1,009 requests for placement. Out of the 1,009, we placed 403, 319 withdrew their request or were denied, 155 cases were transferred to other counties for placement and 132 were pending at the end of the year. Approximately 2/3 of the placements were in Adult Foster Care Facilities. The remaining placements were in nursing home facilities at the rate of four basic to one skilled nursing home placement.

In addition to the placement aspect of the program, our homefinder has been screening and approving those homes that meet our criteria for Adult Foster Care homes. By December, 1973 we had 67 Adult Foster Care homes. In addition, there are 44 nursing homes and 2 homes for the aged.

ADULT AND FAMILY SERVICE
CASE LOAD ACTIVITY IN 1973

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Families</u>
No. of active cases January 1, 1973	317	1766
No. of active cases, December 31, 1973	563	4432
Average No. of cases added each month	630	2121
Average No. of cases closed each month	609	1900

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Protective Services in Oakland County consists of a staff of eight workers whose primary responsibility is to study and act upon reports of neglect, exploitation, abuse, cruelty or abandonment of children by those responsible for their care. On the basis of the findings of such study, the unit has the further responsibility to provide the appropriate social services or reinforce and supplement the parental capabilities, so that the behavior or situation causing the problem is corrected, or the child is otherwise protected. The Protective Services staff works closely with the Oakland County Juvenile Court to assure the provision of a child's legal rights to his basic needs. Early in the year 1973, an agreement was initiated with the Juvenile Court whereby the Protective Services unit assumed full responsibility for the handling of a child abuse situation. During the year, the staff doubled to its present size to meet the increased demands made upon neglectful situations involving only welfare families, but services to abused or abandoned children is extended to the general population. Extension of the activities of the Protective Service unit to any child at any time is presently under discussion and study. Further coordination of the Protective Service staff with other units in both public and private agencies with similar interests is also a constant service goal.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASE LOAD ACTIVITY

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Protective Service Referrals	889	579
Protective Service cases continued for service after study	455	244
Protective Service cases closed for service after study	440	184
Child abuse cases continued for service after study	145	73
Child abuse cases closed for service after study	96	35

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

The Employment and Training Service unit of the Department of Social Services, working jointly with the Michigan Employment Security Commission-Work Incentive Projects in Royal Oak and Pontiac, provided self support services to 2,863 ADC clients registered for WIN (Work Incentive Program). Additionally this service unit has provided supportive services to 587 ADC clients referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Services

During 1973, 1,100 ADC participants were placed in employment. The lowest wage was \$1.35 per hour plus tips. The highest rate of pay was \$9.50 per hour.

The Department of Social Services has responsibility for determination of persons who must register for identifying and delivering supportive services necessary to the removal of barriers to employment in order to insure client movement into employment and self support. Other state and federal Manpower programs and private programs are resources providing joint delivery of services to clients.

CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

In April of 1973 the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program was initiated in Oakland County. This program, operated in conjunction with the Oakland County Health Department, offers comprehensive health screening to all recipients of Medical Assistance under the age of twenty-one. Among the components of the examination are: vision and hearing tests, blood tests, including tests for sickle cell anemia and blood lead levels; the Denver Developmental test; and a dental inspection. Health problems which are detected are discussed with the child's parent and follow-up for further diagnosis and treatment from appropriate medical specialists is arranged by the Screening Clinic staff. Needed immunizations are also administered. This service is offered at two permanent sites, one in the Pontiac Social Services building and the other in the South Oakland Health Department, and in 19 outreach sites located throughout the County.

During the first nine months of the program's operation, 5,266 children were screened. While this figure represents only a 52 percent attendance rate among the 10,114 children scheduled for screening by Department of Social Services staff, similar participation rates occurred in the EPSDT program operated in other metropolitan areas throughout the State. Significantly higher participation rates appeared only in the State's more rural counties. This is perhaps indicative of the variety and accessibility of health services for indigent persons in Oakland County and in the metropolitan Detroit area.

It is significant that of those children who were screened, 3,272, or 62 percent, were referred for further diagnosis and treatment. Among the health problems detected in the screening exam were: cardiac problems, lead poisoning, anemia, possible malignancies, and many vision and hearing defects among younger children that, if undetected and uncorrected, could cause learning problems, limitations on occupational achievement, or irreversible physical handicaps.

The department hopes to achieve greater participation in this program during the next year by resolving transportation problems and other barriers to full participation by eligible clients.

DAY CARE PAYMENTS

In order to provide quality day care for families with low incomes, the Department of Social Services can meet the cost of day care under certain conditions.

It is the day care workers' function to determine eligibility for payments when a financial need exists and the parent or qualified relative is employed or is seeking training or education for employment. Payments can also be allocated if a health or social problem exists which is affecting the well being of a child.

Resources which may be used and for which payment can be authorized include the licensed day care home, licensed day care centers and nursery schools. We are also able to issue payments to certified day care aides in the child's own home or for care in a relative's home.

A program such as this has done much to protect the welfare of children of employed mothers whose income is insufficient to meet child care payments. Instead of being adequately supervised some of these children would be left unprotected and subject to neglect as the result of the mother's employment.

Since day care has made it possible for ADC and low income parents to become employable and/or obtain additional training or education for employment, the program can help reduce the parents dependency on financial aid. Wherever possible we wish to support our client's effort to become self-supporting and believe this program can help families become more self-sufficient.

FAMILIES RECEIVING DAY CARE PAYMENTS

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Average No. of Cases	763	777
Average No. of Children	1,556	1,572
Average Cost per Child per Month	\$60.73	\$56.26

REASON FOR AUTHORIZING DAY CARE PAYMENTS

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
W.I.N.	74	50
Other Employment	478	437
Other Training	184	264
Social or Health Problems	26	26

DAY CARE HOME LICENSING

More women with young children are in the labor force today than at any other time in our history. The Women's Bureau indicates that 30% of all women with children younger than 3 were in the labor force in 1973. When a relative (the most frequent provider of care) is not available to care for the child of a working parent the day care home is the most frequently utilized substitute. The need for a day care home program which will provide the young child with the "mothering" he or she needs for emotional and physical growth is obvious.

It is the responsibility of the Day Care Licensing unit to evaluate those homes who wish to provide day care and to license those where it is felt the needs of the child will be met. Once a home is licensed it is reviewed on a regular basis. Continued service by a social worker is available to the day care home as well as to a parent who uses these services. Hopefully in this manner the needs of the young child who must be out of his own home for part of the day will not be neglected.

The unit compiles information about day care homes and their location. As of December, 1973 we had a list of 397 day care homes available in Oakland County. We provide a much needed referral service to the community regarding the location of a convenient, licensed day care home which the working parent is able to utilize. In the event a day care center or nursery school is the desired method of caring for a child we are also equipped to render referral assistance in this area.

FOSTER HOME LICENSING

The primary function of the Foster Home Licensing staff of the Department of Social Services is to provide the community with quality foster homes. The unit screens and evaluates homes for licensing and after a time interval re-evaluates licensed homes for renewal.

The foster homes which we license are needed in placing county foster care children, children who are committed to the department for planning (i.e., Michigan Children's Institute wards, delinquents, or voluntary releases), as well as for independent placements.

Our most acute need is for homes which will accept teenagers. Teens in need of a foster home placement may be delinquent, abused and/or neglected. The foster parent must be able to convey to the emotionally injured teenager a feeling of acceptance and self worth. The department is constantly searching for homes where the foster parents are able to provide the patience and structure which will enable a teen to achieve maturity.

Foster homes are needed by the community for direct consent adoption and for independent placements. Any parent in the community may at some time need to place his child or children outside his own home for 24 hour care because of illness, death or other personal problems. The unit can provide service whereby the parent may discuss with a social worker the most desirable placement for his child as well as other care possibilities.

The unit maintains a directory of foster homes as well as informative case record material on each foster home. As of December, 1973 we were servicing 143 foster homes. Thus we are able to service our agency and independent requests for placements by the community.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

The Foster Care and Adoption unit provides a variety of services to families and children. Generally, these are protective and rehabilitative services directed toward strengthening of the family so that they will be more able to cope with future problems.

Specifically, foster care services are provided to children who are in need of placement away from their home. These children are provided with a maximum of care, through foster parents, along with our professional services such as, medical and dental treatment, individual and group counseling. While the child is in foster care services are provided to the family to help them through their problems so that the child can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Adoption services are provided to children in need of a permanent, loving family. Many of these children would normally be considered "hard to place" in that they are over eight years old and have physical or emotional handicaps. However, through active recruitment and study of adoptive families, many children are able to be loved and cared for until they reach adulthood.

FOSTER CARE CASE LOAD ACTIVITY

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	PERCENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM <u>1972</u>
Monthly Average No. of Children Entering Foster Care	21	24	-12.5
Monthly Average No. of Children Discharged from Foster Care	20	24	-16.7
Monthly Average No. of Children in Continued Care	141	149	- 5.4

ADOPTION STUDIES

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	PERCENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM <u>1972</u>
Adoption Studies Approved	118	75	+57.3
Adoption Studies Denied or Otherwise Disposed of	234	127	+84.3
Adoption Studies Pending as of 12/31/73	106		

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services unit has the responsibility for all children committed to it by the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court under Act 185 (Boys Training School) and Act 183 (Girls Training School).

The goal for all state delinquent wards is to be rehabilitated, released from state wardship, and have no further delinquent involvement. The community residential care programs offer a variety of programs designed to meet this general goal. The halfway house provides a treatment environment for the acting out delinquent ward who does not need confinement of institutions, but still requires a relatively structured environment. Group homes provide a placement resource with a family oriented milieu. Shelter homes offer family living placements for emergency care. For the vast majority of youth who need help preparing for independent living and to successfully handle the challenges of living on their own, the concept of resident governed group homes was developed.

In order to provide the needed services to these wards, the above facilities are used. If needed we may also obtain appropriate services from other state agencies, private and public agencies.

The main objective of the community service worker is to provide the needed counseling services, rehabilitate the ward as much as possible preparing him for independence by his 19th birthday.

YOUTH SERVICES CASE LOAD ACTIVITY

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM <u>1972</u>
No. of Juveniles Committed to Dept. by Juvenile Div. of Probate Court	61	53	+15.1
No. of Juveniles Discharged	52	85	-38.8
Average No. of Juveniles Supervised Each Month	132	145	- 8.9

TYPE OF PLACEMENT FOR STATE WARDS

	MONTHLY AVERAGE <u>1973</u>	MONTHLY AVERAGE <u>1972</u>	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM <u>1972</u>
Foster Homes	8	3	+167
Group Facility	67	75	-11
Relatives Home	6	5	+20
Independent Living	12	11	+9
Own Home	39	44	-11
Other (AWOL)	1	1	None

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

During 1973, more than one hundred citizens, provided, without cost, services to clients of the department. Among these were volunteers who provided supervision to approximately 1,200 children in the nursery of the Pontiac office while parents were being interviewed by staff.

An addition, one hundred high school students provided minor home repair services to clients.

Approximately thirty-five individuals wrote letters, made home visits, and regularly telephoned older clients who were confined to their own home or nursing homes.

Other volunteers filled roles as clerical and case-aides to departmental staff. Several clients, without means of reaching their physician or other necessary appointments, were provided transportation by volunteer staff drivers.

The Volunteer Coordinator maintains a current Community Information Resources file for use by the staff in serving recipients as well as non-recipients. The file is maintained in both the Pontiac and Royal Oak offices of the department.

As a member of a Community Camp Committee, the Volunteer Coordinator participates in the evaluation and selection of children to attend camp during the summer months.

DSS Publication 155 — OC (Rev. 8-74) Previous editions obsolete.