

GENERAL REPORT ON WELFARE IN MISSISSIPPI

Prepared for the  
FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY by the  
FREEDOM INFORMATION CENTER

October, 1965

GENERAL WELFARE REPORT

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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I. AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (A.F.D.C.)

According to the laws of the Mississippi Department of Public Welfare, a "dependent child" means a needy child under the age of 18 deprived of parental support or care because of death, continued absence, physical or mental incapacity, or unemployment of parent. The child must live with either a parent or a specified relative.

Monthly payments may be given of not over \$25.00 for the first child, \$15.00 for the second child and no more than \$10.00 for each child after that. The full amount of assistance available is not always given to the needy family. The figures above are merely the maximum amount available.

Aid is also given in the form of:

- a.) Casework studies by a trained welfare worker in the home.
- b.) Protective services which could transfer the custody of the child to the Youth Court. This could lead to the removal of the child from the home and placement in the home of a relative, a foster family or an institution. Work with the family would continue even after the removal of the child.
- c.) Day care centers, Juvenile Delinquency Services and aid to unmarried mothers are among other programs available.

Applications for assistance should be made by phone or letter by the parent or relative responsible. The applicant should apply at the nearest welfare agency. If the applicant has been refused assistance, not received as much as requested or has had no reply in a reasonable length of time (3-6 weeks), he may file a complaint for a hearing. Forms may be obtained at the county welfare department or at the State office in Jackson.

## II. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE (O.A.A.)

To qualify for OAA in Mississippi, a person must be at least 65 years old, have lived in the state at least one year, have property valued at not more than \$2,500 and have cash, property, livestock, etc. valued at not more than \$500 if there is one person or \$800 if there are dependents.

Applications should be made at the county welfare department. The welfare department then makes a visit to the home, checks financial statements concerning property, social security benefits, wages (if the applicant is employed), etc. The worker will also discuss with the sons or daughters the need for assistance and whether they can't give some aid to the parent, themselves. No person can receive more than \$50.00 per month on OAA.

If the person applying for aid does not receive aid, if the amount received is not sufficient, or if there has been no reply to the application at all, a hearing may be requested. Forms can be obtained from the county welfare department or from the State office in Jackson.

## III. PARTIAL DISABILITY

Persons with partial disabilities can receive no aid under the Miss. Department of Public Welfare. If their disability is total and permanent they would qualify for aid under the AID TO PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED program. The county welfare department will refer the partially disabled person to the nearest social security office. Under the new 1965 amendment of the Social Security Act, partially disabled persons have a greater chance of receiving aid. (See SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT 1965)

## IV. CLINICS AND MEDICAL AID

All clinics or medical care facilities are handled by the county health department. Persons wishing medical attention should see the nearest public health department in their county.

Glasses and hearing aids are extremely difficult to obtain from the health or welfare department. The usual procedure is for the welfare agency to make a plea to private clubs and church organizations for funds for glasses and hearing aids.

## V. COMMODITIES

The Mississippi Department of Public Welfare has general control of the commodities program. Mrs. Alice Babington is the supervisor in charge of food distribution in the state. Food is shipped by the State

## COMMODITIES cont.

department into the counties on the basis of eligible persons. (According to the Fall of 1964 Chamber of Commerce, Westpoint made no applications for food commodities.) Those eligible to receive the commodities must be in one or both of the categories below. (The county board of supervisors decides to which or both of the categories a person would belong.)

1. Public Assistance Households- that is, receiving aid under federal aid programs, such as;

- a.) AFDC
- b.) OAA
- c.) Aid to the Blind
- d.) Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled.

and/or Nonpublic Assistance Households- that is, homes where none of the members receive benefits as those described above. However, this category does include recipients of Social Security benefits, the unemployed or part-time employed, and others who because of economic stress are in need of food assistance.

Applications for food commodities should be made at the county welfare department.

## IV. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Coupons are purchased by needy persons to be used in exchange for food. The value of the coupons is higher than that of the cash when buying food. The coupons can be used in retail stores.

Those eligible to use the Food Stamp program are determined by the county welfare department as being in economic need. Again, applications should be made at the county welfare department. If that particular area is not yet using the Food Stamp program, more information can be obtained from the State welfare department in Jackson. The program is administered jointly by the Consumer and Marketing Service and the Miss. Department of Public Welfare.

The following counties are presently using the Food Stamp program:

- Chickasaw Co.
- Coahoma Co.
- Harrison Co.
- Jones Co.
- Lowndes Co.
- Madison Co.

1. Payment increase. Social Security benefits will be increased by 7% with back payments of the increase being made for January of 1965 and the months following. Nothing needs to be done by the person receiving benefits in order to receive the increase. The new rates will come into effect in Oct. of 1965.

2. Students. Payments which were discontinued to sons and/or daughters of a person receiving old-age or disability insurance when they reached the age of 18, are now eligible for continued payments if they are full-time students. They can receive these payments until the age of 22.

3. Widows. Widows of insured workers may now start receiving reduced monthly payments as early as the age of 60 ( as compared to the original age of 62). The closer the widow is to 62, the smaller the reductions will be.

4. Disability Provisions for People 72 and Over. If a person is 72 or over and has not been able to qualify for Social Security benefits because of not working long enough under S.S., he may now be eligible for payments up to \$30 per month. Some Social Security credit is still needed, however, the amount of work required is considerably less. The district office of S.S. should be notified if a person has ever received any S.S. credit and is not receiving payments. This only applies if the person is 72 or over.

5. Disability Provisions. The new law provides that for an insured worker who was denied disability insurance because their disability was not considered permanent, payments can now be made in the seventh month of the disability if the disability is expected to last at least twelve months.

(Other than the provision mentioned above, there is no way of receiving aid (financial or otherwise) in the state of Mississippi if one is only partially disabled.)

#### HEARINGS

Forms for complaints should be obtained and filed at the county public welfare department, in the applicant's own county. Forms and more information can also be obtained at:

Mr. M.H. Brooks, Commissioner  
Mississippi Board of Public Welfare  
600 Woolfolk State Building  
Jackson, Mississippi

Other addresses which may be useful are:

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

Anthony J. Celebreeze

330 Independence Ave.

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of Welfare

Ellen Winston

330 Independence Ave.

Washington D.C.

SAMPLE

Information to Obtain From Applicant  
For OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 65 or over? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you lived one year in the state? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your home assessed at no more than \$2,500? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your cash or other property (not your home) valued at no more than \$500,  
if you live alone? \_\_\_\_\_ or \$800 if you have dependents? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have dependents? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

What wages or social security do you obtain? State monthly amount.

Wages \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security \_\_\_\_\_ other income \_\_\_\_\_.

Date application made to county \_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of action taken by Welfare \_\_\_\_\_ What action was taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you receive written signed statement? \_\_\_\_\_

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AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Is your home assessed at not more than \$2,500? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your cash or other property (not your home) valued at no more than \$800?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you lived in the state for one year? \_\_\_\_\_ How many \_\_\_\_\_

Give ages of children (under 18 or under 16 if not in school) \_\_\_\_\_

Is there only one parent in the house because the other parent died or  
deserted or divorced or has been hospitalized or imprisoned or for non-  
marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

What wages do you obtain monthly? \_\_\_\_\_

Date application made to county \_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Date action taken by Welfare \_\_\_\_\_ What action was taken \_\_\_\_\_

Did you receive written signed notice? \_\_\_\_\_ -