

THE WORKS PROGRAM-----
--Works Progress Administration--

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Hopkins Reports Construction Leads List of WPA Projects Selected for Operation Through April 15.

Construction accounts for \$1,145,866,107 or 78.5 per cent of a total of \$1,459,371,856 being expended on all work projects selected for operation under the Works Progress Administration through April 15, according to an analysis made public today by Administrator Harry Hopkins.

Non-construction projects, involving \$313,505,749 or 21.5 per cent of the total, include forestation, sanitation and health, goods projects which produce necessities for the destitute unemployed, and white collar work.

The analysis covers more than 90,000 work projects chosen from a list of 178,000, estimated to cost about \$5,450,000,000, which had been approved by President Roosevelt. Local communities made the selection, it was explained, after considering such factors as the residence and skills of the eligible workers from relief rolls, the funds available for completion of the projects and weather conditions.

Work on highways, roads and streets bulks largest in the analysis, representing almost \$529,000,000, or more than a third of the total estimated cost of all projects selected for operation.

Next, in terms of estimated cost, are projects for improvement and expansion of public recreational facilities such as parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and athletic fields. These represent nearly 13 per cent of the total amount.

Almost as large a portion of the total cost is represented by projects involving work on public buildings such as schools, hospitals and other institutions.

Sewer system and other public utility projects are included in another group of projects covering almost 10 per cent of the contemplated expenditures for the entire program under the Works Progress Administration.

Goods projects, producing necessities for distribution among the destitute unemployed, account for approximately 8 per cent and white collar projects represent about the same amount of the total estimated cost.

An additional 13 per cent of the total cost is devoted to flood control, sanitation and health, airport and other transportation projects, and related construction enterprises.

The local or state sponsors of the projects are shown to have pledged more than \$265,000,000, or more than 18 per cent of the total estimated cost of all projects under the Works Progress Administration. The proportion contributed by sponsors varies considerably among the major types, ranging from 9 per cent on goods projects (for which material has been made available from federal surplus commodity supplies) to 26 per cent on sanitation and health projects. Sponsors have pledged more than 20 per cent of the total cost of three other types of projects--highways, roads and streets; public buildings; sewer systems and other public utilities.

Almost four-fifths of the total funds made available by the Works Progress Administration are used for direct labor costs, the analysis reveals. The bulk of the contributions by sponsors, or 86 per cent, goes for materials, equipment and other operating expenses. On white collar projects the proportion of WPA funds used for labor reaches a peak of 94 per cent. The direct labor cost is 90 per cent of the total WPA expenditure on sanitation and public health projects. Material costs are highest in the development of airports and other transportation facilities, reaching as much as 35 per cent.

A detailed analysis of the Works Progress Administration programs in each state also is presented, showing the number of projects selected for operation in each and the amount of sponsors' and federal funds pledged. The percentage of the national expenditure for each type of project is shown in each state table listing the type, number and value of enterprises. Other state tables show the number and value of projects selected for operation by counties

grouped by WPA districts. Maps indicate by shaded areas the relative importance of certain major types of projects with respect to the total programs of the several states.

A summary table compares the magnitude of the various state WPA programs in terms of estimated total costs. An aggregate of more than \$100,000,000 is reached in each of three states--New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Nevada and Delaware are at the other extreme with projects amounting to less than \$2,000,000 each.

The analysis was prepared by Emerson Ross, director of the division of research, statistics and records, under supervision of Corrington Gill, assistant administrator of the Works Progress Administration.

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