For immediate release
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Assistant Administrator Ellen S. Woodward to direct Federal Arts Projects and Women's Activities.

The Works Progress Administration's Federal program in the Fields of the theater, music, art and writing, as well as in the professions, was placed under new leadership Thursday, July 2, when Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, announced extension of the duties of Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in charge of the Women's Division, to include these fields.

Mrs. Woodward, who has directed women's activities in the WPA during the past year, will retain this post and also succeed Mr. Jacob Baker, resigned as Assistant Administrator in charge of the Division of Professional Projects, as the new director. Mr. Baker has been given a special commission by the President for a study of the cooperative movement in European countries.

Mrs. Woodward's new responsibilities include the administration of the four Federal Arts Projects covering music, theater, art and writers' activities. She will have on her staff the national supervisors who have previously been associated with the Federal projects, Mrs. Hallie Flanagan in charge of theater projects; Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff, music; Holger Cahill, art; and Henry G. Alsburg, writers. Mrs. Woodward will also direct other projects for professional and white collar workers in operation in the forty-eight states, New York City, and the District of Columbia.

Since the summer of 1933, Mrs. Woodward has been identified with the Government program of work relief. At that time she was called to Washington to set up the Women's Division of the Civil Works Administration which created jobs for needy unemployed women. She has provided vigorous leadership in obtaining for destitute women equal benefits with destitute men. Under her direction the work was continued as part of the program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and it has been carried on with increasing effectiveness through the Women's Division of the Works Progress Administration.
More than 450,000 women have been given an opportunity to earn their living on work projects — projects of definite value to the communities in which they are carried on as well as to the workers themselves. This work includes book repair in school and public libraries, preparation and serving of hot lunches for needy school children, the making of garments which are distributed to families on relief, landscaping public grounds, extending library service into remote areas of the country, making Braille books for the blind, sending visiting nurses and housekeeping aides into homes in times of sickness, and other types of services.

Taking over the direction of the Division of Professional Projects, Mrs. Woodward becomes responsible for the employment of about 300,000 additional persons, including men as well as women. Among the professional projects are those which have to do with museums, with public health, clerical work in connection with public records, and many other activities of white collar and clerical workers.

To her work in Washington, Mrs. Woodward has brought a wide experience in many fields of public service and a real understanding of social problems. Her public career began in Mississippi in 1925 when she became a member of the State Legislature — the second woman to serve in the House of Representatives. At the close of the 1926 session of the Legislature she was appointed Director of Civic Development, a division of the Mississippi State Board of Development. Subsequently she was appointed Executive Secretary of the State Development Board, an office never before held by a woman.

Mrs. Woodward served also as Executive Secretary of the Research Commission of Mississippi, which was established by the Legislature in 1930 to make a study of all conditions affecting the welfare of the people in her State. She became actively identified with public relief work when she was appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Public Welfare, created by the Governor in 1932.

She has been active in various professional and civic organizations, including the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Altrusa Club, the Parent Teacher Association, the Southeastern Council, and the D.A.R., and she has served as Democratic National Committee woman. She is a member of Chi Omega Sorority.

Mrs. Woodward is the daughter of the late William V. Sullivan, at one time United States Senator from Mississippi. Her husband was Judge Albert Y. Woodward, a distinguished Mississippi lawyer who died in 1925. She has one son, Albert Y. Woodward, Jr., who is in business in Los Angeles, California.