Approval of Household Service Demonstration Projects under the Works Progress Administration, as a continuation of the Household Workers' Training Program, was announced today by Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in charge of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects.

This program of training needy young women for household employment was initiated in February, 1936, through an allotment of $500,000 of Federal funds, and as these funds became exhausted, most of the training centers have been forced to close. As Household Service Demonstration Centers the centers may now re-open, or new ones be initiated, as WPA projects.

At the peak of the Household Workers' Training Program there were 184 training centers operating in 17 states, the District of Columbia and New York City. From these centers, over 5,000 needy young women received certificates showing that they had attained proficiency in such work as the preparation and serving of food, washing and ironing, the daily care of a house, weekly cleaning, proper handling of household equipment, marketing and care of food, and daily care of children.

Household occupations, the largest field of work open to women today is the only avenue of employment for women where the demand for trained workers far exceeds the supply. This fact is evidenced by the high percentage of placement from the Household Workers' Training Centers, many communities reporting
that 100 per cent of the young women who took this training received private employment. Since the training course was initiated, 5,678 trainees have been placed with employers who have signified willingness to cooperate in permanently raising the standards in respect to hours of work, wages, and living conditions in this field.

"With a year's practical experience on which to build, we hope, in the operation of the new program, to clear up some of the chief disadvantages of the Household Workers' Training Program," Mrs. Woodward, Assistant Administrator, said today.

"Since the trainees received no compensation under the old program, many women desirous of preparing for household employment could not enroll because they must work regularly on WPA projects in order to support their families," she continued.

The new Household Service Demonstration Projects provide for the payment of a minimum number of hours' work, at the prevailing household workers' rate, to Junior Demonstrators who may be transferred from other WPA projects for a period of two months. Those who are placed in regular jobs through this preparation are thus removed from the WPA rolls.

Whereas the Household Workers' Training Centers were largely for training, the new projects are set up as demonstration centers. Any persons interested in housework or the problems of household employment may attend the demonstrations, which are conducted by WPA workers. Thus a housewife can herself attend or can send her maid to witness a demonstration on cake baking, proper methods of cleaning, or some other related subject. The center will also serve as a clearing house for household and household employment problems. Advance announcements of the meetings will be made locally.
Through demonstration methods the projects will also prepare untrained needy young women for household employment as an occupation. These trainees are recommended by approved social agencies as in need of experience and preparation for placement in private employment. To get this preparation they are permitted to participate in the demonstration activities but receive no monetary compensation.

It is hoped through the projects to attain the following objectives:

1. To organize local committees of employers who are interested in permanently raising the standards in household work, and thus make employment in this field more generally permanent and desirable as an occupational activity.

2. To assist the public in the solution of household management and employment problems and to inform the general public of the technique of household employment and the responsibility of employees and employers therein.

3. To equip needy women interested in obtaining experience and preparation for household work to hold jobs in private employment.

4. To place those who are successful in obtaining a certificate from the demonstration centers in homes of employers who maintain acceptable standards of work.

The projects are set up on a state-wide basis and any state may initiate projects locally as WPA projects.

Mrs. Woodward has designated Miss Anna Marie Driscoll, who served as National Supervisor of the Household Workers' Training Program, as Consultant for the new program.