

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



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WPA COMPLETES ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT WITH HEALTH AND EDUCATION
SERVICES REACHING MILLIONS; CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

Completing a report on four and one-half years of WPA operations, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, today made public an inventory of accomplishments by workers on professional and service projects and in the fields of flood and erosion control, irrigation and conservation.

Several millions of persons are reached each week, the Commissioner stated, by WPA health, education, recreation, art, music, library and related programs.

In the health program, it was found in a typical two-week period that nearly a quarter million examinations and treatments were given in WPA-operated or -staffed medical and dental clinics and in schools and homes to children and adults who were unable to pay for such services. Nearly 82,500 tests for specific diseases and more than 17,000 immunization treatments were reported.

Closely related in the effect on the nation's physical welfare were more than 1,000,000 lunches served by WPA workers on a single day to needy and undernourished children in more than 11,000 schools, the housekeeping assistance given 57,000 needy families in a single month and manufacture of 218,000,000 garments for the destitute during four and a half years.

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Educational services provided by WPA are reaching adults in classes with an aggregate enrollment of more than 1,000,000, the nation-wide report shows, and more than 300,000 are enrolled in literacy and naturalization classes alone.

On the basis of a special survey last year, when the rolls were larger, the public recreation activities supervised by trained WPA workers were found, in a typical week, to be equivalent to participation for one hour each by 15,000,000 persons. Nearly half of this was physical recreation, both indoors and out, and the rest was divided principally between social and cultural recreation. The benefits of such supervised leisure-time activity are readily apparent, Colonel Harrington pointed out, particularly in communities with much unemployment, short working hours and low income.

"While the WPA construction program has been building up the physical plant of the nation," Colonel Harrington said, "the professional and service projects have been contributing to its health and culture.

"Most of the millions of persons who this report indicates are deriving benefits from the 'white collar' projects are in the lowest income brackets and could not afford the important services and assistance our project workers have been able to provide. There are communities today in which the only public health facilities are those provided by WPA or where the only library is staffed by them or the only opportunity for adults to study is afforded by WPA teachers."

Typical periods were chosen for the inventory of professional and service accomplishments because of the impossibility of measuring cumulative results with the yardsticks applied to construction work in the two previous reports of this series.

These showed that, along with other work, WPA constructed or improved more than 450,000 miles of highways, roads and streets and built more than 23,000 public buildings from the beginning of WPA, July 1, 1935, through last December. Health and education were advanced notably by these programs, also, through the addition and improvement of education, recreation, transportation and sanitation facilities.

Additional construction covered in the final report issued today includes 4,650 miles of firebreaks and 3,000 miles of fire and forest trails. WPA workers also rebuilt or improved an additional 2,000 miles of firebreaks and trails.

Accomplishments in the fields of flood and erosion control included 6,000 miles of stream bed improvements, more than 3,000 miles of river bank and shore improvements and construction or improvement of 2,700 miles of such works as levees and retaining walls. More than 760 miles of irrigation ditches and canals were built and 3,700 repaired or improved.

On the professional and service side of the WPA program, the report shows adult education to be an outstanding activity. In addition to 309,000 enrollees studying for citizenship or learning to read or write, vocational training classes claimed

195,000 students and correspondence work 48,000 in a two-week period studied. Forums and lectures conducted by WPA project employees had an aggregate attendance of 162,000.

WPA also operated 1,550 nursery schools, providing scientific care and pre-school training during the two weeks for 43,700 children of unemployed and destitute families, the report shows. Special instruction was given 4,200 institutionalized and handicapped children.

WPA conducted art classes with an enrollment of 45,500 and music classes with 179,000, the inventory disclosed. More than 2,500 performances by units of the WPA Music Program drew an aggregate attendance of more than 1,000,000 during the period.

Medical clinics operated by WPA or staffed with WPA assistants provided 119,000 examinations and treatments and dental clinics 35,000 during the first two weeks in January, the report shows. Home visits by WPA nurses and doctors provided 17,000 examinations and treatments. In the schools, 35,000 examinations and treatments of various kinds were given.

Public and school libraries operated wholly or partly by WPA workers during December totaled nearly 10,000, of which 115 were "bookmobiles," or light trucks stocked with books for the people of remote sections. During the four and one-half years, WPA workers repaired 68,000,000 volumes of school and general library books. During that period nearly 4,000,000 pages of Braille were transcribed for the blind.

Sewing projects, up to January 1, had completed 48,000,000 men's garments, 59,000,000 women's garments and 110,000,000 garments for children and infants. Other items, such as towels, sheets and surgical dressings, aggregated 66,500,000. The articles produced by sewing projects, which comprise the largest single aspect of the WPA non-construction program, were distributed by public relief agencies to needy persons.

The accomplishments cited in this and the preceding reports do not include the work done with transferred WPA funds by other Federal agencies, which have operated projects manned by needy unemployed on the same basis as WPA.

(A tabular summary is attached. Details of accomplishment by states may be obtained from State WPA headquarters.)

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF ACTIVITY ON PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE PROJECTS

United States Summary

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Art Instruction Education and Music Instruction During a Two Week Period in January 1940

Activity	Unit of Measurement	Number
Education		
Adult Education		
Literacy and Naturalization	No. of Enrollees	308,860
Vocational Training	No. of Enrollees	195,460
Correspondence Work	No. of Enrollees	47,812
Other Adult Education	No. of Enrollees	543,306
Lectures and Forums	Total Attendance	161,710
Nursery Schools	No. of Schools	1,554
	No. of Enrollees	43,731
Special Instruction for Institutionalized and Handicapped Children	No. of Enrollees	4,168
Art Instruction	No. of Enrollees	45,527
Music		
Instruction	No. of Enrollees	178,854
Performances	No. of Performances	2,576
	Total Attendance	1,101,293

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

Cumulative through December 31, 1939

United States Summary

(Part III)

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Flood and Erosion Control - Irrigation - Conservation

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Fish Hatcheries	Number	147	129	74
Firebreaks	Miles	4,648	826	XX
Fire and Forest Trails	Miles	3,007	1,171	XX
Reforestation	Acres	XXX	411,394	XX
Planting Oysters	Thousands of Bu. Planted	5,820	XXX	XX
Levees and Embankments	Miles	404	836	XX
Jetties and Breakwaters	Miles	57	2	XX
Bulkheads	Miles	112	36	XX
Retaining Walls and Revetments	Miles	1,232	105	XX
Riprap	Thousands of Sq. Yds. of Surface	11,706	1,703	XX
River Bank and Shore Improvements	Miles	XXX	3,153	XX
Streambed Improvement	Miles	XXX	6,007	XX
Irrigation Systems	Thousands of Acres	235	2,904	XX
	Miles of ditch, canal pipe, or flume	768	3,718	XX

Library and Book Repair Activity

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number of Units
Libraries Operated or Assisted (December 1939) Total	No. of Libraries	9,918
General Public Library Units	No. of Libraries	3,441
Public School Library Units	No. of Libraries	5,016
Other Library Units	No. of Libraries	1,037
Bookmobiles	No. of Bookmobiles	115
Book Renovation (Cumulative through December 31, 1939) Total	No. of Volumes	68,389,000
General Public Library Volumes	No. of Volumes	33,452,000
Public School Library Volumes	No. of Volumes	27,386,000
Other Library Volumes	No. of Volumes	7,541,000
Braille (cumulative through December 31, 1939)	No. of pages transcribed	3,909,000
	No. of maps transcribed	13,760

Public Health and Hospital Activities

Activity	Unit of Measurement	Total	Persons Receiving Service	
			Children	Adults
Clinic and Other Health Service During a Two Week Period in January 1940				
Dental Clinics	No. of Examinations and Treatments	35,107	27,301	7,806
Medical Clinics	No. of Examinations and Treatments	119,341	21,725	97,616
	No. of Tests	20,964	4,354	16,610
	No. of Immunizations	10,694	7,434	3,260
Home Visits	No. of Examinations and Treatments	16,994	11,130	5,864
	No. of Tests	1,299	1,048	251
	No. of Immunizations	1,676	626	1,050
School Services	No. of Examinations and Treatments	36,567	36,567	XXX
	No. of Tests	33,061	33,061	XXX
	No. of Immunizations	3,129	3,129	XXX
Other Services	No. of Examinations and Treatments	34,749	25,584	9,165
	No. of Tests	27,197	10,868	16,329
	No. of Immunizations	1,714	1,590	124
Institutions, Other than Clinics, Operated	Number	33	XXX	XXX
Hospitals Assisted	Number	659	XXX	XXX
Other Institutions Assisted	Number	1,175	XXX	XXX
Nursing Aide Services				
During Month of December 1939	No. of Families Assisted	57,116	XXX	XXX
Cumulative Through December 31, 1939	No. of Visits Made	17,169,000	XXX	XXX
School Lunches Served				
On January 17, 1940	No. of Schools	11,190	XXX	XXX
	No. of Lunches	1,129,420	XXX	XXX
Cumulative through December 31, 1939	No. of Lunches	386,197,000	XXX	XXX

Sewing, Mattress Making and Food Preserving - Cumulative from Beginning of Program

Article	Unit of Measurement	Number
Garments - Total	Units completed	218,204,000
Men's Garments	Units completed	47,810,000
Women's Garments	Units completed	59,177,000
Boy's Garments	Units completed	41,160,000
Girl's Garments	Units completed	47,806,000
Infants' Garments <u>A/</u>	Units completed	22,231,000
Articles Other Than Garments	Units completed	66,525,000
Food Canned and Dried	Quarts Canned	43,333,000
	Pounds Dried	1,680,000

A/ Excluding Layettes

Community Participation in Recreational Activities, Week Ending February 13, 1939

Activity	Unit of Measurement	Number
All Recreational Activities	No. of Participant hours	15,680,000
Physical Recreation	No. of Participant hours	7,016,000
Snow and ice sports	No. of Participant hours	1,439,000
Basketball	No. of Participant hours	1,893,000
Gymnastics	No. of Participant hours	658,000
Other physical recreation	No. of Participant hours	3,026,000
Social Recreation (indoor games, folk dancing, etc.)	No. of Participant hours	4,798,000
Cultural Recreation (arts, crafts, drama, music, etc.)	No. of Participant hours	3,337,000
Children's Play Centers	No. of Participant hours	334,000
Therapeutic Recreation	No. of Participant hours	23,000
Other Recreation	No. of Participant hours	172,000