

1999 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2179


1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2179

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 14, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	X		1273-2261
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes: CHAIRMAN KREBSBACH opened the hearing on SB 2179 which a bill relating to changing the name of the office of intergovernmental assistance to the division of community services. Appearing before the committee to explain the bill and its intentions was Dina Butcher Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance. A copy of the written testimony which she presented to the committee is attached. Following completion of her testimony she urged favorable support for and passage of this bill. Questions were offered by SENATOR DEMERS who indicated she comes from the university system and is familiar with the hierarchy of things. She wondered if the same thing was true in government and if there was a difference to the status or meaning attached to the word office or the words division of? DINA BUTCHER indicated she didn't think so. Our reasoning was that we would be more consistent with the other divisions of the Office of Management and Budget. This was not driven by any pecking order. It's more of an identity problem because having been there for two years now and describing what I do,

when I say that I am the director of the office of intergovernmental assistance there is sort of a blank look and that seems to prevail. Then I have to go into a long explanation of what it is we actually do. Then people say oh, now I understand what it is you do. SENATOR

KREBSBACH- And how is it you came up with the title Division of Community Services? Was

this through your own division or through an outreach of ideas or what? DINA BUTCHER

indicated this is a very good question. It wasn't like we had a contest. Internally more than anything we have had a lot of discussion. There have been many name changes which have come up over time. We came to an agreement that we do provide services. We are directing our services to communities be they energy, self-sufficiency, economic development, helping all community based or community services seemed like the appropriate way to, most succinctly describe what we do. SENATOR KILZER inquired if this is what is called in other states?

DINA BUTCHER indicated that there are so many different configurations. Counterparts to our office are sometimes housed in a commerce department. They might be called the community development division. They might be housed under an economic development, housing or whatever. Community development is quite often part of the terminology. We've chosen to say services. SENATOR KREBSBACH indicated that we've had this happen to us before when we've had changes in the code. I'm considering all of the references that would refer to the division. Is that handled automatically, Senator Stenehjem through the council. SENATOR STENEHJEM-No madam chairman. I think they used to do that, then they got nervous about doing it so I guess that you would have gone through every place in the code. DINA

BUTCHER- That's what we have done. SENATOR STENEHJEM-We used to put in a section that said the code revisor shall rename wherever this appears in the ND Century Code. They said

that that wasn't proper style. It has to go through all the actual sections. DINA BUTCHER indicated that they have thoroughly researched that. SENATOR STENEHJEM noted that there was no fiscal note on the bill, but some things are going to have to change. Any plan of what you are going to do with that? DINA BUTCHER indicated that this has been taken into consideration. We realize that we will probably run out of stationary before this takes affect and we will not order in large quantities. And there are some things that would just be ordered in the normal course of things that would not create a fiscal note of note. There were no further questions from the committee. There was no further testimony in support of, neutral position, or opposition to SB 2179. There was no further discussion The hearing was closed on SB 2179. COMMITTEE ACTION-SENATOR W. STENEHJEM made a motion for a DO PASS on SB 2179, seconded by SENATOR THANE. ROLL CALL VOTE indicated 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, and 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING. SENATOR KILZER volunteered to carry the bill.

Date: Jan. 14, 1999
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2179

Senate GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN'S AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen. W Stenehjem Seconded By Sen. Thane

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
SENATOR KREBSBACH	✓				
SENATOR WARDNER	✓				
SENATOR KILZER	✓				
SENATOR STENEHJEM	✓				
SENATOR THANE	✓				
SENATOR DEMERS	✓				
SENATOR MUTZENBERGER	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Kilzer

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 15, 1999 8:12 a.m.

Module No: SR-09-0651
Carrier: Kilzer
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2179: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2179
was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2179

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2179

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-11-1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		7.8 - 12.5
1	X		28.3 - 30.3
Committee Clerk Signature <i>[Signature]</i>			

Minutes: Some of the individuals testifying submit written testimony. When noted please refer to it for more detailed information.

Representative Klein, Chairman of the GVA Committee opened the hearing on February 11, 1999.

Summary of the Bill: Relating to changing the name of the office of intergovernmental assistance to the division of community service.

Testimony in Favor:

Dina Butcher, Director of Intergovernmental Assistance submitted a written testimony which she read in it's entirety (**please refer to her testimony**).

Representative Klein, Do any other states have this? Something to compare it to?

Butcher, Were under OMB, but most have the name community assistance in their title somewhere.

Page 2
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2179
Hearing Date 2-11-1999

Testimony in Opposition: None.

Committee Action:

Representative Devlin, Made the motion for a Do Pass.

Representative Cleary, Seconded the motion.

Motion Passes: Do Pass **15-0**.

Representative Fairfield, Is the carrier for the bill.

Date: 2-11-99

Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2179

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By DEVLIN Seconded By CLEARY

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN KLEIN	✓		REP. WINRICH	✓	
VICE-CHAIR KLINISKE	✓				
REP. BREKKE	✓				
REP. CLEARY	✓				
REP. DEVLIN	✓				
REP. FAIRFIELD	✓				
REP. GORDER	✓				
REP. GRANDE	✓				
REP. HAAS	✓				
REP. HAWKEN	✓				
REP. KLEMIN	✓				
REP. KROEBER	✓				
REP. METCALF	✓				
REP. THORESON	✓				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment FAIRFIELD

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 11, 1999 12:11 p.m.

Module No: HR-28-2580
Carrier: Fairfield
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2179: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Klein, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2179
was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

SB 2179



OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE

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Testimony on Senate Bill 2179 **January 14, 1999** **Senate Committee on Government and Veterans Affairs**

Madame Chairman, Committee Members:

My name is Dina Butcher, and for the past two years I have served as the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance, a division of the Office of Management and Budget. I come before you today in support of Senate Bill 2179 to request that the agency name be changed to the Division of Community Services (DCS).

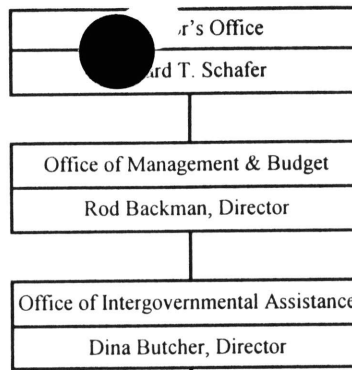
The bill before you simply changes the references to the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance in the Century Code to the more functionally appropriate Division of Community Services. In the attachment to my testimony is a description of the various duties and functions of our office. Also described is the history of this agency and its evolution from the 1979 Federal Aid Coordinator Office to who and what we are today.

This request for a name change is a result of a variety of recommendations from clients, our internal personnel and the public at large. Our front office staff does a really good job of fielding calls from people who are confused and/or frustrated in their search for an appropriate agency to address their needs. They see the name Office of Intergovernmental Assistance and think we are the organization that takes care of everything from cattle brands to visas. My staff does their best to help these callers, but the number of such inquiries lends strength to the need for a name that actually identifies what we do.

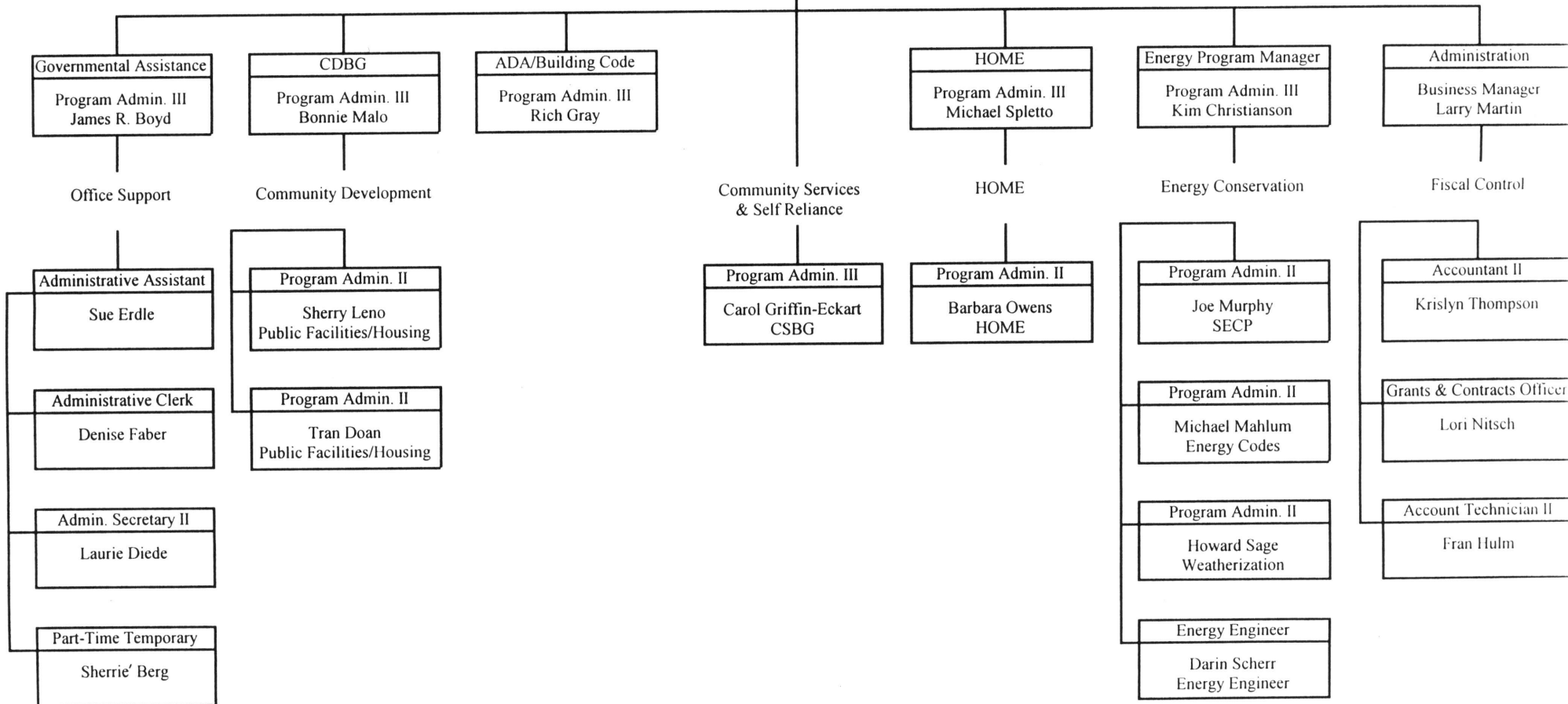
Most of our programs are driven from the grass-roots up and apply to community capacity building. Be it the Community Development Block Grant programs for housing, public facilities and economic development, or the Community Services Block Grant self-sufficiency program, we are working at the local community level.

Stemming from the Governor's Leadership ND initiative, we are involved with the whole array of federal and state program agencies which provide rural development funds in encouraging communities to shape their own destiny by coming up with a strategic look at where they wish to position themselves for the future. Our role in this process is one of lending expertise and providing funding to these communities (in other words, community development); thus our name change request. We are doing community development already and in keeping with the other divisions within OMB, Division of Community Services is a crisp and clear identity.

I respectfully request your support for this bill.



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 January, 1999



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
 Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WX)
 State Energy Conservation Program (SECP)

BRIEFING PAPER
ON THE ORGANIZATION AND MAJOR PROGRAMS OF
THE NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE

The following is a description of the background, structure, functions and programs of the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance (OIA). Following these descriptions is a brief discussion of issues surrounding the programs administered by the office.

BACKGROUND

In 1979, the OIA predecessor agency, the Federal Aid Coordinator Office, was established by the Legislature as a separate agency with assumed the responsibilities of the Division of Economic Opportunity, the State Planning Division, the Office of Energy Management and the Special Projects Coordinator. These divisions and offices were four executive branch agencies which reported to the Governor. The Legislation also provided that the Lieutenant Governor serve as the Federal Aid Coordinator.

In 1981, the Federal Aid Coordinator Office was legislatively incorporated within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Chapter 54.27.1 of the North Dakota Century Code. The legislation provided that the director of OMB may be the Federal Air Coordinator or he may appoint a coordinator who would serve at the pleasure of the director. As a result, the Federal Aid Coordinator Office was functionally reorganized into three divisions: the State Planning Division, the Energy Office and the State Office of Economic Opportunity.

During the forty-eighth legislative session, legislation was passed renaming the Federal Aid Coordinator Office. It became the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance and was incorporated as a division of OMB as of July, 1983. A reassessment of the functions of the office resulted in a reorganization of the office into the following functions:

- Administration consisting of fiscal and clerical support;
- Energy Conservation Programs;
- Low Income Assistance Programs;
- Community Development consisting of the CDBG Program; and
- Governmental Assistance which provides assistance and analysis services to the Director of OMB and the Governor's Office; performs some of the remaining functions of the Planning Division; and provides administrative support to the Director of the OIA.

Exhibit 1 shows the current organizational structure of the OIA. The fifty-second Legislative Assembly approved the additional function within the Office of Building Code/Americans With Disabilities Act Implementation.

Over ninety-seven (97%) percent of the office's 1995-97 budget of \$39.7 million is Federal and other funds subject to Federal and other judicially imposed regulations. This does not include an anticipated \$8 million federal fund emergency commission request necessary before the end of the biennium. It is necessary that, in addition to the programmatic functions, the office maintain a fiscal support function to track and account for the numerous grants and sources of funds.

PROGRAMMATIC FUNCTIONAL AREAS

The current activities of the OIA focus upon the functional areas of Community Development, Energy Conservation, Low Income Assistance, and Governmental Assistance. The following are brief summaries of the activities associated with each area:

Community Development: The Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) are the focus of OIA's community development activities. The CDBG program provides financial assistance to eligible cities and counties in the form of grants and loans for Public Facility projects, Housing Rehabilitation projects, and Economic Development projects. These projects must be of benefit to low and moderate income households. The HOME program emphasizes partnerships among housing providers and local communities to make available affordable housing to low-income persons through rehabilitation, production, and acquisition assistance activities. The ESGP program provides financial assistance to facilities and programs within the state which provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals.

Energy Conservation: The energy conservation activities of OIA encompass the federally funded State Energy Conservation Program (SECP), the Institutional Conservation Program (ICP), and Oil Overcharge Restitutionary programs. Within these programs, energy conservation assistance is provided in the form of workshops, publications, and information to the general public; grants to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and state institutions for energy conservation improvements; and outreach programs to residential consumers and small businesses. In addition the DOE and LIHEAP weatherization programs provide low income households with assistance through the purchase and installation of weatherization measures such as insulation, caulking, weatherstripping, and furnace repairs.

Low Income Assistance: The low income assistance activities within OIA center around the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. The CSBG program provides, through the state's seven Community Action Agencies (CAAs), emergency assistance, outreach, and budget and housing counseling to low income households. Clients can also participate in the Self Reliance Program to increase social and economic self sufficiency.

Governmental Assistance: Governmental Assistance services consist of research and analysis services to the Governor's office and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the collection and maintenance of statewide Energy Supply and Consumption Data; the Census Data Center Program; the review and comment on federal funding and development applications; and technical assistance to units of local government.

Building Code/ Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA): The building Code/ADA activities within OIA include planning, directing, and managing the implementation, education and compliance of all State and Local Government Facilities, and public accommodations with the Handicapped Accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This section is also charged with the administration of the State Building Code and with the preparation and maintenance of a Comprehensive Plan which governs the use of eleven (11) major Federal Housing Programs administered within OIA and other state and local agencies statewide.

PROGRAMS WITHIN OIA

Community Development Block Grant

In 1982, the State of North Dakota became the first state in the country to assume responsibility from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for administering the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The state administered program provides cities under 50,000 population and counties under 200,000 population the opportunity to compete for funds intended to provide decent housing, adequate public facilities, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Specifically, the North Dakota program provides grants to cities and counties in the areas of Public Facilities, Housing, and Economic Development. Historically, North Dakota has received between \$5-6 million annually for this program.

OIA contracts with eight Regional Councils for regional distribution of funds. Distribution includes both writing the criteria and reviewing/ranking projects based on that criteria. Once the councils have ranked and approved projects, OIA reviews them for eligibility and completeness. After approval by the reviewing staff member and the director of OIA, a financial award is signed by the OIA and the city/county. OIA must report to HUD use of grant funds, etc. and monitor/review project files for compliance with federal regulations, proper expenditure of funds, etc.

HOME Program

The HOME program is a federally funded grant program that emphasizes partnerships among housing providers in order to make available affordable housing to low-income persons. The North Dakota HOME program provides funds for basically two kinds of activities: Homeowner-ship Assistance and Rental Production/Assistance. This is accomplished through four set-asides in the following areas: 1)Owner-occupied Housing Rehabilitation; 2)Rental Production or Rehabilitation; 3)Homebuyer Assistance; and 4) Tenant-based Rental Assistance/Security Deposits.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) handle most of the housing rehabilitation activities. Some CAAs also contribute rental production through their work as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Acquisition set-asides are administered through a cooperative agreement with the ND Housing Finance Agency through its Downpayment and Closing Cost Assistance Program and its Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program.

Production and maintenance of rental units is handled by state recipients (the three large cities) and CHDOs. The three cities are addressing needs identified through their Consolidated Plan, and are

developing housing for elderly and large families. CHDOs must meet certain requirements spelled out in HUD-HOME regulations to qualify.

Homeless-Emergency Shelter Grants Program

The Emergency Shelter Grants Program is a federal program designed to provide financial assistance to facilities and programs within North Dakota which provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals. The facilities which have received assistance are primarily located in population centers within the state which typically have homeless individuals.

State Energy Conservation Program

The North Dakota State Energy Conservation Program (SECP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The SECP promotes energy conservation, the development and use of renewable energy resources through increased public awareness, fosters a greater understanding of energy related problems, and involves the public in dealing with energy issues. The goal of the SECP is to reduce the rate of growth in state energy consumption, which in turn contributes to a reduced national energy consumption growth rate.

SECP programming efforts focused on energy education, buildings, transportation, commercial/industrial activities, and utilities. Specific program accomplishments include the promotion of recycling efforts by grants issued through the SECP. The Energy Education Program Measure, designed to integrate energy education into the existing North Dakota school curricula, included activities of providing free Energy Source Curriculum Kits; free audio visual loans; mini-grant projects; and sponsored National Energy Education Day.

The Buildings Program Measure, implemented to reduce energy consumption through efficiency improvements, has focused procurement practices within state government and on the education of procurement officials at the local level. State agencies and institutions are assisted in evaluating energy consumption and are provided with detailed, walk-through energy audits.

The Commercial/Industrial Program Measure, an activity involved in reducing the energy consumption in the commercial sector, has provided for energy management educational opportunities for ranchers and farmers.

The Transportation Program Measure, in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, has initiated a school bus rerouting project, an effort to identify minimum distance bus routes.

The Utilities Program Measure, intended to promote energy efficiency at the utility level, is also designed to support the development and use of renewable energy resources. Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) continues to incorporate energy efficiency as a resource, integrating demand-side and supply-side options in plans to reduce the cost of electric service.

In recent years, North Dakota has received between 60 and 70 thousand dollars from DOE with an additional PVEA funds devoted to this program.

Institutional Conservation Program

The Institutional Conservation Program (ICP) provides financial assistance to schools and hospitals in the form of matching federal grants for the purpose of reducing energy consumption. Two types of matching grants are available: one to assist with the costs of institutional energy audits; the other to assist with the costs of implementing energy conservation measures identified through audits.

The state program promotes and provides financial assistance for walk-through energy audits, technical assistance audits, and energy conservation measure grants. The state is responsible for development and administration of the state plan, determining institution eligibility, reviewing and ranking applications, developing funding recommendations for the Department of Energy, and overall administration and monitoring of the grants.

Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Persons (DOE & LIHEAP)

The Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Persons Program's purpose is to reduce energy consumption in the homes of low income persons and to reduce the nation's dependence upon imported oil. Weatherization funds from the Department of Energy (DOE) are used to purchase and install insulation, caulking, weatherstripping and other conservation materials.

In administering this program, the OIA contracts with the state's seven Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to do the actual installation of energy conservation improvements. In addition to funds received from the Department of Energy, the OIA utilizes funds which are available from the Department of Health and Human Services through the State Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. More recently oil overcharge funds have been allocated by the Governor for this purpose.

DOE funding for this program has ranged between \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million per year with LIHEAP funds ranging between \$300,000 and \$1.9 million per year. PVEA funds have also been used to supplement this program.

Energy Data

Monthly and annual data baselines are maintained for the supply and consumption of North Dakota's primary energy sources. This data is compiled together with variables including heating degree-day and pricing data, and provides historical and current data bases for planning, decision making, the evaluation of present and future energy requirements and an emergency petroleum fuels management capability for the State of North Dakota. On a monthly basis, petroleum products consumption data are derived from the DOE/EIA Prime Suppliers Monthly report which is furnished directly to the Office by all prime suppliers of petroleum products in accordance with federal law. These reports provide the framework for a standby state Set-Aside program which is in effect at the discretion of the Governor under current provision of the NDCC. This petroleum fuels emergency management capability is coordinated with the DOE office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Emergencies.

The North Dakota Energy Supply and Consumption Statistical Summary is published yearly, utilizing the aggregated data of individual prime energy sources and suppliers. This report is made available to primary North Dakota energy suppliers and as required by public and private sectors. In addition during the winter heating season the office, under a cooperative agreement with DOE's Energy Information Administration, conducts semi monthly surveys of Residential Propane Suppliers to monitor price fluctuations and supply situations.

Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) primary purpose is to assist the states in implementing locally-designed, anti-poverty programs.

During the biennium, North Dakota received about \$2.86 million in CSBG funds. The congressional enabling legislation requires the state to pass through at least ninety percent (90%) of each year's CSBG allotment from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to locally-controlled nonprofit corporations called Community Action Agencies (CAAs). The CAAs serve multi-county jurisdictions which include all of the state's 53 counties. Each CAA is governed by a board of directors, including equal numbers of elected local officials, private sector representatives, and low income persons. CSBG funds provide a range of services to low income persons, including emergency assistance, budget counseling, child and spouse abuse prevention, chore services for the aging, small business counseling, self-employment training, distribution of surplus commodities and many other services to the poor.

Since 1986 the office, in conjunction with the CAAs, continued to emphasize the Self Reliance program. The purpose of the Self Reliance Case Management program is to help poor people become economically self-sufficient through a process of self-assessment, goal setting, self-help, and continuing personal support. Since the inception of the program in 1988, 480 clients have been served. Approximately 20 percent of the total clients served achieved self-sufficiency and are no longer in the program. As of July 1, 1991, there were 450 active clients served through this case management program.

In recent years North Dakota has received between \$1.1 million and \$1.7 million for this program.

Intergovernmental Review Process

Presidential Executive Order 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" structures the Federal government's system of consultation with State and local governments on its decisions involving grants, other forms of financial assistance, and direct federal development projects. The Office of Intergovernmental Assistance is the State's Single Point of Contact for the review process, which each year processes over 400 eligible programs application requiring the review process.

The North Dakota Intergovernmental Review process was designed in coordination with the Federal Office of Management and Budget, and the various Federal agencies having eligible programs, after consultation with State and local units of government. The EO 12372 process became operational on October 1, 1983, and is periodically updated through consultation with government agencies within the

State for whom the process was designed, in accordance with stated needs and preferences. This updating follows reviews and revisions of program coverage by the Federal Office of Management and Budget and Federal funding agencies.

State Census Data Program

The Office of Intergovernmental Assistance continues to provide assistance under the State Census Data program. The program is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Agricultural Economic Department at NDSU, the Geography Department at UND, and the North Dakota State Library.

The OIA responds to numerous requests for Census Data each year. The majority of the requests were from city, county, state, and federal governments. The most requested data by geographic level was for state data, with county level data second, and city and nationwide data third.

In addition, the office conducts an annual Boundary Annexation Survey for the Census Bureau to accurately update the geopolitical boundaries for the state.

Oil Overcharge Planning & Implementation

Since 1985, the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance was assigned and maintained the responsibility to plan for the utilization of Oil Overcharge funds distributed to the state as a result of successful litigation undertaken by the U.S. Department of Energy against major oil companies for violations of price control regulation during the 1970s. States received those funds to implement indirect restitutionary programs for consumers within the states. Funds received or anticipated from the respective disbursement are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ● Diamond Shamrock | \$ 71,000 |
| ● Exxon | \$7.7 million |
| ● Stripper Well | \$6.9 million |

While some funds remain to be programmed, most of these funds have been obligated and /or expended. Under the Stripper Well settlement, it is anticipated that there will only be minor additional amounts recieved over the next several years. Each settlement is to be administered under provisions set forth within the respective court orders. In addition, the funds must be accounted for separately within interest-bearing accounts.

Input was solicited from groups and organizations within the state. A public hearing was also conducted on the proposed uses. In addition, plans for the use of these funds have been incorporated into the office budget requests before both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

In using Stripper Well funds the office, after consulting with the Governor, periodically updates a plan for the use of the respective funds for DOE approval.

State Building Energy Conservation Program

The North Dakota State Building Energy Conservation Program has provided funding to state institutions and agencies for the installation and implementation of energy conservation measures. Energy audits are required from the institution or agency to identify potential energy conservation measures, respective costs, energy savings and payback periods. Efforts were made to coordinate this program with the Institutional Conservation Program by setting aside \$1,000,000 to be used as match for ICP grants made to state institutions, mainly to higher education facilities.

To date, all \$1,000,000 has been obligated to 20 state institutions to be used as match for ICP grant assistance, and another \$356,966 has been obligated to 17 state buildings for energy conservation measure projects.