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OTHER HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAMS

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Because changing federal policy is the dominant policy question and influence on human resources programs at both state and local levels, it is important to gain some perspective on the changes in federal resource commitments to such programs.

The Federal Initiatives

I'd like to review the federal programs and the changes in resource commitments between 1982 and the 1985 budget starting with retirement and disability programs.

In the categories of Social Security and Railroad Retirement there has been a three percent decrease equal to \$24,079 million. Civil Service Retirement is also down three percent or \$2,549 million. Veteran's Compensation and Pensions as a unit are down one percent or \$572 million. Supplemental Security Income, however, is up four percent or \$1,419 million.

Other Income Security Programs include Unemployment Insurance, down seven percent or \$7,750 million; Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) down 13 percent or \$4,762 million. Food Stamps also are down 13 percent or \$6,970 million. Child nutrition is down 28 percent or \$5,167 million but the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is up four percent, the equivalent of \$191 million. Both Housing Assistance and Low-Income Energy Assistance are down, four percent or \$1,765 million and eight percent or \$713 million respectively.

In the area of Health Care, Medicare is down five percent or \$13,150 million, Medicaid is down five percent or \$3,915 million and Other Health Services are down 22 percent or \$1,369 million.

Education and Social Services, as we shall see, have not been exempt from the budget cuts. Compensatory Education is down 17 percent or \$2,646 million. Head Start has been cut some 0.5 percent or \$11 million. Vocational Education is down 12 percent or \$593 million and Guaranteed Student Loans funding has been cut 27 percent or \$3,802 million. Other Student Financial Assistance has been reduced by 13 percent or \$2,134 million and Veterans' Readjustment Benefits are

down 10 percent or \$655 million. Social Service Block Grants are down 22 percent or \$2,857 million and Community Service Block Grants are down 39 percent or \$1,010 million.

In the area of Employment and Training Programs, General Employment and Training Programs have been cut 35 percent or \$7,422 million. Funding for Public Service Employment has been cut 99 percent or \$16,947 million. Job Corps funding is down six percent or \$145 million and Work Incentive Programs are down 33 percent or \$556 million (1).

What are the impacts of these federal cuts on Human Resources Programs? Families with incomes under \$20,000 have suffered benefit cuts more than twice as severe as families in higher income brackets, \$415 as compared to \$175 in 1985. Seventy percent of all cuts have been borne by this group.

Child nutrition programs have been cut 28 percent resulting in one million lower-income children being dropped from school feeding programs.

Job training programs have been cut 35 percent; work incentives for welfare recipients have been cut 33 percent; and disincentives for able-bodied AFDC recipients to take jobs has been reinstated.

Between 1981 and 1982, 700,000 fewer students received student loans.

REFERENCES

- (1) Office of Management and Budget. "Major Legislative Changes in Human Resources Programs Since January 1981." OMB Staff Memorandum. Washington, DC: August, 1983.