

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington

Memorandum

March 30, 1943

To: Relocation Supervisors

From: Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

Subject: Public assistance for evacuees who are outside relocation centers.

(1) It should be definitely understood that the War Relocation Authority will not be responsible for the cost of medical or other assistance rendered to evacuees outside the relocation centers. Up to now there has been some confusion on this point.

(2) This explicit disclaimer by WRA of responsibility for payment for emergency assistance does not mean, however, that the evacuees will have no recourse to any public assistance after leaving the centers when they have need for it. In fact, the situation from now on in this respect should be much better than before. Prior to this time there has been considerable uncertainty in everybody's mind as to the person or agency which would pay for emergency assistance rendered the evacuees. This has now been straightened out through the agreement of the Social Security Board to pay for services rendered evacuees who are out of the projects and in need of assistance, provided such services are rendered by the appropriate local bureaus of public assistance.

(3) The Social Security Board has informed us that the basis and terms of its participation has been set forth in a memorandum of the Board dated April 30, 1942, prepared by the Bureau of Public Assistance and entitled, "Summary of Program for Providing Necessary Assistance to Enemy Aliens and Other Persons Affected by Restrictive Action of the Federal Government."

(4) The portions of that memorandum which are applicable to the problem of furnishing assistance to evacuees out of the centers on leave are as follows:

"The regional public assistance representative of the Social Security Board, under the direction of the regional director, has been authorized to proceed immediately to inform all of the States in his region of the provisions of this program and to arrange with the appropriate State department to provide the necessary assistance and services under the conditions defined in the scope of this program. The regional public assistance representative of the Social Security Board is authorized to assure the State agencies of reimbursement for expenditures made under the program.\*\*\*\*\*"

"Federal reimbursements under this program may be made for:

1. Assistance and services to persons who meet the conditions described in this memorandum and who are in need:
  - a. Maintenance as necessary at standards of assistance, not above those prevailing in this community, including foster home care or institutional placement of children, and necessary medical care. The standards of assistance applied in the approved State plan for aid to dependent children or those in operation in the general relief program of the State or local community will be most nearly applicable to this program.
  - b. Transportation for persons and household effects including incidental expenses enroute at minimum rates when it is demonstrated that the individual or family can move to a place where they can be self-supporting or can be maintained with smaller expenditure of Federal funds, such plan to receive prior approval from the State agency. In exceptional instances, as in the case of children, where the most appropriate care can only be secured in another locality, transportation may also be authorized. All travel, of course, will be governed by rules of the Department of Justice.
2. Such other costs of operation as the agency may incur in carrying out the purposes of this program.\*\*\*\*\*

"Reimbursement for expenditures incurred by State and local public welfare agencies in providing assistance under this program will be made in the following manner: Claims for reimbursement of expenditures incurred shall be submitted monthly by the State agency to the regional office and by the regional office to the Washington Office of the Social Security Board. Upon approval of the claim for reimbursement by the Board, payment will be made to the State Agency by the United States Treasury. State agency expenditures for which Federal reimbursement is claimed will be subject to audit by the Bureau of Accounts and Audits of the Social Security Boards."

(5) Evacuees who are out on leave from the relocation centers come within the scope of the Board's memorandum. The reference to travel in paragraph 1-b above refers to the travel of aliens; travel of evacuees who are American citizens has not been specially restricted except with respect to the evacuated area on the West Coast.

(6) Relocation Supervisors should make contacts as soon as possible with the appropriate officials of the Social Security Board in this areas in order to advise with them as to the most expeditious manner of putting the program into effect for the evacuees. All Relocation Officers should become thoroughly acquainted with the appropriate State and local public assistance agencies in order to be able to advise evacuees as to the agency to which an application for assistance should be made. Relocation Officers should assist evacuees in making needed contacts with the public assistance agencies and upon request should advise with the agencies about the handling and disposition of individual cases.

(7) Every evacuee before leaving a project on seasonal or indefinite leave will be furnished with the following notice:

"Assistance and Other Welfare Services. The WRA will not be responsible for medical or other assistance to evacuees outside of relocation centers. If you become financially unable to meet your needs, you may make application for assistance at the local public welfare agency in the community in which you are working. If there is more than one local welfare agency in the community, the Relocation Officer will advise you as to which agency will take your application. Arrangements have been made by the Social Security Board with public welfare agencies to provide such emergency assistance to evacuees who may be financially unable to provide for their own needs."

(8) I have no doubt that many problems will arise in connection with this public assistance program for evacuees which have not been answered here. When problems arise see if you can straighten them out with the local and State agencies and the officials of the Social Security Board in the field. When you need our advice here write in or wire.

(9) Attached you will find a copy of a letter from the Director of WRA to the Chairman of the Social Security Board concerning the service to evacuees under this program.

/s/ Thomas W. Holland

Attachment