

## ANNUAL REPORT

### MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Jan. 1, 1958 - Dec. 31, 1958

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Gentlemen:

On the following pages I am presenting for your study the Annual Report of the activities of this department for the year 1958. Although it is never interesting reading, I trust that the information contained in this report will give a fairly clear picture of the number of cases handled by this department during the past year along with the amount of monies expended for the care of the indigent persons in Madison County.

As you know, the true objective of all public welfare administration is, not only to relieve distress, but, insofar as possible, to restore dependent people to productive self-sufficiency. The Social Welfare Laws of New York State place upon local public welfare officials the duty to rehabilitate people - socially, economically, physically and psychologically - to the fullest extent possible. This we have attempted to do.

During the past year we have seen a steadily increasing caseload due largely to the unemployment situation, which has existed since the very beginning of the year and, without the normal decrease in applications which usually occurs during the summer months.

If there are any questions regarding this report which you wish answered, I shall be most happy to attempt to answer them for you. It is my sincere belief that each and every member of the Board of Supervisors should know all of the details which go into the administration of Public Welfare in Madison County.

ANNUAL REPORT  
COMPARISON CASELOADS

1957

	OAA	AB	AD	CASES	ADC CHILDREN	CASES	HR INDIVIDUALS	MONTHLY TOTAL
Jan. 31	336	7	70	122	371	102	444	637
Feb. 28	332	7	73	129	391	110	652	651
Mar. 31	330	7	74	131	400	100	563	642
Apr. 30	332	7	77	130	398	88	412	634
May 31	329	8	76	135	423	70	375	618
June 30	323	8	74	131	411	61	235	597
July 31	319	7	72	120	391	57	221	575
Aug. 31	318	8	71	113	371	44	218	554
Sept. 30	316	6	71	121	398	40	212	554
Oct. 31	321	7	68	133	411	57	223	586
Nov. 30	324	8	71	138	432	71	306	612
Dec. 31	319	8	70	145	433	91	360	633

	OAA	AB	AD	CASES	1958 ADC CHILDREN	CASES	HR INDIVIDUALS	MONTHLY TOTAL
Jan. 31	321	8	78	159	493	137	702	703
Feb. 28	319	8	78	162	501	162	901	729
Mar. 31	316	7	77	166	508	176	942	742
Apr. 30	319	7	74	166	501	153	817	719
May 31	312	7	74	175	523	123	747	691
June 30	308	7	73	174	539	110	617	672
July 31	306	8	73	165	501	105	570	657
Aug. 31	311	9	75	165	486	110	567	670
Sept. 30	305	9	71	166	483	123	636	674
Oct. 31	302	10	72	171	504	134	641	689
Nov. 30	306	10	70	176	520	146	687	708
Dec. 31	304	10	65	179	521	181	849	739

Note: The above figures do not include those persons cared for in the County Home (outside the Infirmary). These persons cared for in the Home averaged 23 per month.

## ANNUAL REPORT

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1958

#### OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

The average monthly caseload in this category decreased from 325 in 1957 to 311 in 1958. This decrease in caseload is expected to continue.

In spite of the decrease in caseload the cost of this program increased. Cash grants increased from \$191,585.10 in 1957 to \$212,302.36 in 1958; Hospital care increased from \$18,603.51 to \$31,104.31; Physicians' fees increased from \$28,646.81 to \$29,590.93 and prescriptions decreased from \$13,053.89 in 1957 to \$11,796.96 the past year.

These increases in costs of the program of Old Age Assistance are caused by three major factors: Old agers require more warmth in winter and as a result we were forced to supplement their ordinary fuel requirements during these past two winters; then increases of approximately 5% in cash grants was mandated during the year; but the major cause of the increased costs was the fact that a greater percentage of the old agers were, because of poor health, forced to go to nursing homes and the county infirmary, which approximately doubles the cost of care in their own homes.

The total gross expenditures in this category increased from \$263,510.46 in 1957 to \$293,224.50 in 1958.

Medical costs represented approximately 24.7% of the total cost of this program as compared to 23% in 1957.

#### AID TO THE BLIND

The average monthly caseload in this category was 8 in 1958 as compared to 7 in 1957.

In 1958 cash grants increased from \$4,384.72 in 1957 to a total of \$5,035.98; there were no hospital charges in 1958; physicians' fees increased from \$425.55 to \$521.30 and prescription costs increased from \$326.48 to \$409.29 in 1958. Total costs of this program increased from \$6,084.56 in 1957 to \$6,166.01 in 1958.

Medical costs in 1958 represented approximately 15% of the total cost of this program while in 1957 they represented 20%.



## ANNUAL REPORT

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1958

#### AID TO THE DISABLED:

The average monthly caseload in this category increased from 72 in 1957 to 73 in 1958.

Cash grants increased from \$40,531.71 in 1957 to \$44,616.31 in 1958; Hospital care increased from \$5,189.94 to \$6,023.67; Physicians' fees decreased from \$7,082.88 to \$6,326.26, while prescription costs decreased from \$4,427.73 to \$3,938.65. Total gross costs in this program increased from \$57,469.74 in 1957 to \$61,444.14 in 1958.

Medical costs in this program of public assistance represented approximately 26.5% of the total cost.

#### AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN:

As is the case throughout the state this category increased tremendously during 1958. The average monthly caseload in Madison county increased from 129 in 1957 to 169 in 1958. While the number of children cared for under this program during 1957 ranged from 371 to 441 in any one month, during 1958 the number ranged from 483 to a high of 539.

This resulted in huge increases in costs as follows:

Cash grants increased from \$193,795.98 in 1957 to \$250,409.54 in 1958; Hospital costs increased from \$5,274.86 to \$11,467.23; Physicians' fees increased from \$17,054.46 to \$20,573.96; while prescription costs increased from \$4,441.76 to \$4,883.25. Total gross expenditures increased from \$221,939.40 in 1957 to the sum of \$289,260.14.

Medical costs in this program represented approximately 12.7% of the total costs.

#### HOSPITAL CARE:

This program refers to care given to persons in hospitals exclusive of those receiving public assistance in one of the Federal Categories: i.e.: OAA, AB, AD or ADC.

Total gross cost of this program in 1958 was \$49,816.80 as compared to \$42,952.62 in 1957.



ANNUAL REPORT  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1958

HOME RELIEF:

Due largely to the serious unemployment situation in this county during 1958 the caseload in this program increased entirely out of proportion to any other program administered by this department.

The average monthly caseload was nearly double that in the previous year, it being 74 in 1957 while in 1958 it averaged 138 cases. The amazing feature of this increase is that in 1957 the average of 74 cases per month represented 352 persons, while in 1958 the average of 138 cases represented an average of 723 persons per month. This increased the costs of this program tremendously. And it becomes quite obvious that even though many heads of these families while unemployed received Unemployment Insurance Benefits, these benefits could not possibly have supported such large families.

Cash grants in 1957 totaled \$63,758.44, while in 1958 cash grants increased to the all-time high of \$150,014.16; Physicians fees totaled \$8,704.52 in 1957, increasing to \$16,241.69 in 1958; while in 1957 drug costs were \$2,561.49, in 1958 they were \$4,619.94.

Gross home relief costs in 1957 were \$77,794.68, while in 1958 gross costs were \$175,762.57.

I sincerely hope that a work-relief law will pass the legislature in 1959 which will enable the Board of Supervisors to set up a work program so that physically able recipients of home relief may be required to work for the assistance which their families receive.

BURIALS

Burial costs in 1958 were \$11,052.50 as compared to \$11,210.00 in 1957.

(Note) Physicians' fees on the preceding pages include fees paid to dentists, optometrists, podiatrists and any other licensed practitioner in the healing arts.

\*\*\*\*\* Also, in the statistical report I feel it necessary to call again attention to the term "other expenses". This term refers to payments for transportation, taxes or any other item not included as a budgetary item.

ANNUAL REPORT  
CHILD WELFARE DIVISION  
1958

CASELOAD

	Boarding Homes	Free Homes	Adoptive Homes	Work-wage Self-support	Out of County	Supervision	Total
Jan. 1	103	3	14	2	6	11	139
Feb. 1	101	3	13	5	5	12	139
Mar. 1	101	2	12	5	5	13	138
Apr. 1	99	2	11	6	5	13	136
May 1	96	2	12	6	5	22	143
June 1	89	2	14	6	5	21	137
July 1	92	3	13	11	6	16	141
Aug. 1	92	2	14	11	7	15	141
Sept. 1	88	2	14	9	6	14	133
Oct. 1	88	3	9	7	5	29	141
Nov. 1	88	3	9	6	5	29	140
Dec. 1	87	3	8	4	6	36	144
Dec. 31	84	2	11	5	6	38	146

REFERRALS

	Family	Private Citizens	Court	Public Assistance	Out of County	School	Clinic	Other	Total
January	1		5		1	1		1	9
February	2		10	15		1		1	29
March	2	6	2		1			2	13
April	3		10	9	1				23
May	7		9	15	2	1		6	40
June	8		7	2	6	1		6	30
July	8	6	3		1	1		12	31
August	23	2	4	10	2				41
September	3		8	1	1	8	1		22
October	7	1	6	2	2	9			27
November	8		6		1				15
December	4				5	8			17
	76	15	70	54	23	30	1	28	297



ANNUAL REPORT  
CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

1958

As in past reports, the charts on the previous page illustrate the work performed by this division.

The monthly caseload in Child Welfare the past year ranged from a low of 133 children to a high of 146 children.

The total of 297 referrals was an increase of 16 over 1957. Referrals from families was the highest source with referrals from court running a close second.

The gross expenditures in this program decreased from \$76,956.98 in 1957 to \$69,164.31 in 1958.

Gross expenditures in Juvenile Delinquency cases were \$12,294.56 as compared with \$12,936.33 in 1957.

Due to the continued increase in cost of living during the past year, beginning Jan. 1, 1959, this department will pay foster parents \$50.00 per month for the care of each child in care. The previous rate has been \$45.00 per month. Not only will this increase help present foster parents, but it is also hoped that it will attract additional foster homes for which there is a great need in Madison County.

Another change which will become effective in 1959 is that all payments ordered through court to this department will be paid directly to this department and not be paid through the Probation Department. We believe that this will result in greater efficiency in that it will no longer necessitate duplication of accounting procedures, and when court-ordered payments are not made, we will accept responsibility for returning the defendants to court for further hearing. This will not only effect cases in Foster Care, but also any cases involving public assistance.

I wish to thank the members of the Welfare Committee of the Board of Supervisors for their kind consideration in granting ~~an~~ educational leave to the Senior Caseworker in Child Welfare so that she may further her studies toward a Masters Degree. This will not only benefit her but will also benefit this department when she returns to work.

ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS

1958

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Disbursements:

Personal services	\$96,270.49
Equipment	1,130.00
Supplies & materials	3,700.19
Other expenses	
(travel, telephone, etc.)	<u>16,712.54</u>

\$117,813.22

Credits:

State reimbursement	\$41,818.45
Federal reimbursement	<u>26,203.29</u>

\$ 68,051.74

Net local administrative cost

\$ 49,761.48

HOME RELIEF

Disbursements:

Cash grants	\$150,014.16
Medical care	16,241.69
Drugs	4,619.94
Other care	<u>4,886.78</u>

\$175,762.57

Credits:

State reimbursement	\$95,805.16
Repayments & recoveries	<u>835.10</u>

\$ 96,640.26

Net local cost

\$ 79,122.31



# ANNUAL REPORT

## STATISTICS

1958

### OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

#### Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$212,302.36
Hospital Care	31,104.31
Physician's Fees	29,590.93
Prescriptions	11,796.96
Other Assistance	<u>8,429.94</u>

\$293,224.50

#### Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$ 81,005.99
Federal Reimbursement	131,142.17
Repayments & Recoveries	<u>4,830.25</u>

\$216,978.41

Net Local Cost

\$ 76,246.09

### AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

#### Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$250,109.54
Hospital Care	11,467.23
Physicians' Fees	20,573.96
Prescriptions	4,883.25
Other Assistance	<u>1,926.16</u>

\$289,260.14

#### Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$ 63,170.97
Federal Reimbursement	144,205.64
Repayments & Recoveries	<u>11,059.23</u>

\$218,435.84

Net Local Cost

\$ 70,824.30

ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS

1958

AID TO THE DISABLED

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$44,616.31
Hospital Care	6,023.67
Physicians' Fees	6,326.26
Prescriptions	3,938.65
Other care	<u>539.25</u>

\$61,444.14

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$16,894.29
Federal Reimbursement	28,617.12
Repayments & Recoveries	<u>60.71</u>

\$45,572.12

Net Local Cost

\$15,872.02

ASSISTANCE TO THE BLIND

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$5,035.98
Physicians' Fees	521.30
Prescriptions	409.29
Other care	<u>199.44</u>

\$6,166.01

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$1,261.40
Federal Reimbursement	<u>3,416.30</u>

\$4,677.70

Net Local Cost

\$1,488.31



# ANNUAL REPORT

## STATISTICS

1958

### JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

#### Disbursements:

Board	\$5,189.11
Clothing	249.01
Supplies	45.88
Physicians' Fees	92.35
Hospital Care	43.86
Dental Care	187.00
Miscellaneous	124.40
To State for Board	<u>6,362.95</u>

\$12,294.56

#### Credits:

Reimbursement from state

2,406.28

Net Local Cost

\$ 9,888.28

### FOSTER CARE

#### Disbursements:

Board	\$52,552.44
Clothing	6,703.06
Supplies	782.91
Physicians' Fees	2,471.95
Medicine	719.54
Optical care	260.58
Hospital care	2,507.74
Dental Care	2,718.00
Miscellaneous	<u>448.09</u>

\$69,164.31

#### Credits:

State Reimbursement  
Repayments

\$27,542.01  
11,531.58

39,073.59

Net Local Cost

\$30,090.72

# ANNUAL REPORT

## STATISTICS

1958

### HOSPITAL ONLY

#### Disbursements:

* Paid to Hospitals	\$38,150.84
* Paid to Doctors	11,506.70
Other charges	<u>159.26</u>

\$49,816.80

#### Credits:

Reimbursement on State Charge Hospital cases	\$ 2,893.61
Reimbursement on Home Relief Hospital Cases	5,083.05
Repayments & Recoveries	<u>1,109.08</u>

\$ 9,085.74

Net Local Cost

\$40,731.06

\*These items include "Home Relief-Hospital" Care, a reimbursable type of assistance when a person has received a grant for thirty days immediately preceding hospitalization.

### BURIALS

#### Payments for burials:

\$11,052.50

#### Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$2,462.25
Repayments & Recoveries	<u>1,576.80</u>

\$ 4,039.05

Net Local Cost

\$ 7,013.45

### NON-PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

#### Expenditures:

\$ 64.40



## ANNUAL REPORT

### GERRIT SMITH MEMORIAL HOME AND INFIRMARY

1958

We experienced a very successful year in the operation of the Home and Infirmary. Each day of the year saw the Infirmary operating at nearly full capacity.

While the state reimbursable rate for care was \$128.70 in 1957, the rate was \$112.00 per month in 1958.

As in the past when the infirmary was established we have continued to keep maintenance costs at a minimum by replacing worn-out equipment, recovering badly worn floors repainting the interior of the building as needed. This has prevented the expenditure of a great sum of money in 1958 for major improvements. We shall continue this practice in the future.

Following is some of the equipment purchased in 1958:

- Dining table and chairs for staff dining room.
- Side rails for infirmary beds.
- New power lawn mower.
- Stove for staff kitchen.
- Inter-com system.

As in the latter part of 1957, we were required to issue checks to the welfare recipients in the infirmary from the Hamilton office to cover cost of their care. Therefore, under revenues for the Infirmary and Home these amounts will be included along with the social security benefits and other revenues received.

ANNUAL REPORT  
GERRIT SMITH HOME AND INFIRMARY  
1958

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries, wages and professional fees	\$57,851.92	
Telephone	541.56	
Fuel, light and power	6,981.50	
Ordinary repairs	1,194.18	
Drugs	3,978.56	
Food	14,452.36	
Pasteurization of milk	895.80	
Maintenance supplies	6,256.04	
Clothing, sheets, etc.	1,938.50	
Minor equipment	1,110.22	
Other(Extermination service, fees, adv., Express, petty cash)	<u>553.43</u>	
		\$97,167.10
Value of farm produce consumed at Home		<u>6,173.38</u>
		\$103,340.48

REVENUES

Public Monies(Aid to the disabled)	\$ 8,364.98	
Public Monies(Old Age Assistance)	41,353.01	
Refunds from Individuals for Board and care	<u>12,418.17</u>	
		\$62,136.16
Operating cost		\$41,204.32
Less State Reimbursement on operating cost		<u>17,162.97</u>
Net operating cost to county		\$24,041.35
Total number of residents Jan. 1, 1958	71	
Total number of residents Dec. 31, 1958	71	
Total number of days, board and care	25,366	

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY FARM

1958

The County Farm was again this year operated under the capable direction of Clarence Edding, Farm Superintendent.

The cost of operation increased from \$14,880.54 in 1957 to a total of \$18,097.96 in 1958. Including the value of produce consumed at the Home and Infirmary the net operating profit showed a decrease from \$4,888.84 in 1957 to \$845.31 this past year.

I believe that the time has arrived when the members of the Board of Supervisors should conduct a study of the farm with a view to disposing of it or be prepared to face substantial expenditures in the very near future.

In the Inventory of machinery contained in this report, I wish to call your attention to the age of many pieces of equipment. Although I have placed money in the budget for the past two years to repaint the barns, it was necessary to use that money for other expenditures. Therefore, the barns should be painted this year. Also, the roof on the large cow barn is in a bad state of repair.

The building housing the hens is next to impossible to keep at the proper temperature in the winter time. As a result, we have had many frozen eggs this winter. If we desire to continue to produce our own eggs it will be necessary to repair this building.

I think you have all noted that many Welfare Departments throughout the state have disposed of their farms in the past few years. The original reason for maintaining a farm in the past no longer exists.

I realize that there are mixed feelings in the county as to whether or not to abandon the county farm. I strongly urge that the Farm Committee of the Board make a thorough study of the situation early in the summer of 1959 in order that a determination may be made prior to preparation of the budget for 1960.



## ANNUAL REPORT

## COUNTY FARM

1958

FARM INVENTORY:

28 Milch cows  
 5 Heifers  
 5 Yearlings  
 6 Calves  
 175 Hens

PRODUCE FOR LIVESTOCK CONSUMPTION:

95 Tons Hay  
 1200 Bushel Oats  
 20 Tons Straw  
 125 Tons ensilage  
 500 Bushel Picking corn

PRODUCE FOR RESIDENT CONSUMPTION:MILK

Jan.	5119 lb. @ \$6.80 per cwt.	\$ 348.09
Feb.	4207 lb. @ \$6.60 per cwt.	277.66
Mar.	4354 lb. @ \$6.20 per cwt.	269.95
Apr.	4440 lb. @ \$6.20 per cwt.	275.28
May	4575 lb. @ \$6.00 per cwt.	274.50
June	3945 lb. @ \$5.90 per cwt.	232.76
July	4280 lb. @ \$6.30 per cwt.	269.64
Aug.	4447 lb. @ \$6.60 per cwt.	293.50
Sept.	4218 lb. @ \$6.70 per cwt.	282.61
Oct.	4328 lb. @ \$6.90 per cwt.	298.63
Nov.	3915 lb. @ \$7.00 per cwt.	274.05
Dec.	4461 lb. @ \$6.90 per cwt.	<u>307.81</u>

\$3,404.48

EGGS

Jan.	123 doz. @ .46¢	\$ 56.58
Feb.	157-2/3 doz. @ .44¢	69.37
Mar.	198-1/2 doz. @ .46¢	91.31
Apr.	170-1/6 doz. @ .46¢	78.28
May	180-5/12 doz. @ .45¢	81.19
June	169-1/2 doz. @ .43¢	72.89
July	161-1/4 doz. @ .43¢	69.34
Aug.	136-1/4 doz. @ .43¢	58.59
Sept.	230-1/4 doz. @ .40¢	92.10
Oct.	307-5/6 doz. @ .40¢	123.13
Nov.	149-5/12 doz. @ .40¢	59.77
Dec.	205 doz. @ .43¢	<u>88.15</u>

\$ 940.70

## ANNUAL REPORT

## COUNTY FARM

1958

PRODUCE FOR RESIDENT CONSUMPTION (cont'd):MEAT

January	1100 lb. beef @ .30¢	\$330.00
March	173-1/3 lb. chicken @ .30¢	52.00
March	852 lb. beef @ .30¢	255.60
April	135 lb. chicken @ .30¢	40.50
May	868 lb. steer beef @ .45¢	390.60
September	970 lb. beef @ .35¢	339.50
October	568 lb. beef @ .35¢	198.80
December	632 lb. beef @ .35¢	<u>221.20</u>

\$1,828.20

TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCE USED FOR RESIDENT CONSUMPTION:

Milk	\$3,401.48
Eggs	910.70
Beef	1,735.70
Chicken	<u>92.50</u>

\$6,173.38

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY FARM

1958

FARM MACHINERY INVENTORY (1958)

- 1-1½ ton International truck (1947)
- 1 John Deere Manure Spreader (1952)
- 1 Mowing machine
- 1 Farmall M. Tractor (1952)
- 1 New Holland Hay Baler (Repaired after 1951 fire)
- 1 Side delivery rake
- 1 Hay and grain elevator (1953)
- 1 Potato digger
- 1 Dis-Wick Disc
- 1 Wagon box
- 3 Farm wagons (1953, 1955, 1956)
- 1 Plow (hydraulic lift, 1953)
- 2 Snow plows (1 old - 1 new 1957)
- 1 Cultivator
- 1 Corn planter ( changed to hydraulic lift)
- 1 Grain drill
- 1 Culti-packer
- 1 Corn sheller
- 1 Ensilage cutter
- 1 Hay loader
- 1 Ford tractor (1953 model, purchased in 1957)
- 1-1/2 ton Ford Truck
- 1 Conde milking machine (4 Units)
- 1 Ford Lift-All platform
- 1 Conde pump, 3/4 HP (1954)
- 1 Lime sower (1955)
- 1 Milk house heater (1955)
- 1 Grain Bin (1955)

NEW EQUIPMENT

- 1 Harrow
- 1 Ford Plow (Hydraulic lift)
- 1 Steinhurst Side Opener milk cooler (used)
- 1 New Milk House



From the desk of

WILLIAM LIDDLE

1957

14,880.54

14,004.82

875.72

\$6,118.12

1,988.84

9,036.49

924.21

\$18,097.96

\$12,154.28

123.55

259.00

233.06

\$12,769.89

6,173.38

\$18,943.27

Net operating profit to county

\$845.31

## ANNUAL REPORT

1958

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

DISBURSEMENTS

General Administration	\$117,813.22
Old Age Assistance	293,224.50
Aid to Dependent Children	289,260.14
Aid to the Disabled	61,444.14
Aid to the Blind	6,166.01
Home Relief	175,762.57
Juvenile Delinquents	12,294.56
Foster Care	69,164.31
Hospital Care	49,816.80
Burials	11,052.50
Non-Public Assistance	64.40
Public Home & Infirmary	103,340.48
County Farm	<u>18,097.96</u>

\$1,207,501.59

CREDITS

General Administration	\$ 68,051.74
Old Age Assistance	216,978.41
Aid to Dependent Children	218,135.84
Aid to the Disabled	45,572.12
Aid to the Blind	4,677.70
Home Relief	96,640.26
Juvenile Delinquents	2,406.28
Foster Care	39,073.59
Hospital Care	9,085.74
Burials	4,039.05
Public Home and Infirmary	79,299.13
County Farm	<u>18,943.27</u>

\$803,203.13

Net local cost to county

\$404,298.46

## ANNUAL REPORT

### MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

1958

It is most regrettable that this annual report shows an increase in the cost of operation of this department from \$990,515.00 in 1957 to an all-time high of \$1,207,501.59 in 1958. The net cost to the county increased from \$328,897.16 in 1957 to \$404,298.46 in 1958.

This trend is evident throughout the State and, unless employment improves very rapidly, it appears that our expenditures in 1959 will exceed those of the past year.

While unemployment in this county is the major factor in increasing the public assistance caseload, I firmly believe that there is also another very important factor. That is the prevailing philosophy of many persons today--that welfare is coming to them, that they are entitled to it and, as a result thereof, they apply for public assistance almost immediately after they become unemployed and before they look around for other employment. Of course, we require that all able-bodied persons register for employment and provide us with concrete evidence that they are looking for a job in order to be eligible for continuing assistance.

The cooperation of private citizens and the members of the Board of Supervisors in notifying this department when they believe a person receiving assistance is a chiseler has helped us greatly. I sincerely urge everybody to continue this cooperation.

In reviewing the past year I wish to call your attention to the staffing problem which has confronted us. Even when we have been able to fill vacancies, new caseworkers are unable to carry a full caseload for from three to six months. This has created tremendous pressure on the experienced staff members who have been required to carry caseloads far in excess of the number which they are able to investigate thoroughly. I respectfully request that the proper committee of the Board of Supervisors make a careful study of caseworkers' salaries during 1959 with the hope that substantial increases may be provided in the 1960 budget. A more satisfactory scale of salaries not only will keep present caseworkers, but also will attract new and experienced ones.

We desire to express our gratitude to the members of the Board of Supervisors for their continued cooperation with this department and for their understanding of the problems which exist in the administration of welfare. We pledge our continued cooperation with the Board at all times.



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We also wish to again express special thanks to County Attorney William Burke and District Attorney Harold Simons for their continued assistance in resolving the many legal problems which confront us.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to Supreme Court Justice Howard Zeller, County and Children's Court Judge Clarence E. Conley and the many other state, county, town, village and city officials who have been so helpful to us this past year.

We shall continue to conduct the affairs of this department to the best of our ability and according to the laws, rules and regulations of the State of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

*William Liddle*

William Liddle, Commissioner