

6. POLICY POSITION

WELFARE REFORM

BACKGROUND

Congress is now in the process of considering reform of block grants, including welfare and Medicaid. If these block grants are to be considered a vehicle for welfare reform, then a method of distribution to the states will have to be considered and a basis for an average funding formula developed. The states oppose prescriptive federal management of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program and federal guidelines that are restrictive in nature.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference strongly encourages Congress to recognize that funding adjustments for all block grants should provide for changes in the economy, natural disasters and population growth. Such block grants should include appropriate budget adjustments that recognize agreed upon national priorities, inflation and demand for services. The Southern Legislative Conference also urges Congress to recognize that proposed funding formulas will result in extreme hardship on the states and the budgetary implementation date of October 1, 1995 should be reconsidered.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 15, 1995, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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