

Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization, “Summary of Goals,” Nov. 1, 1967, ser. 1, box 326, folder 6286–88, Housing Association of Delaware Valley Records, Urban Archives, Special Collections Research Center, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

PHILADELPHIA WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION  
1520 Green St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19130  
(LO 8-2785)

SUMMARY OF GOALS

Welfare Rights Organization is a city-wide movement involving welfare recipients working to achieve a decent standard of living for ourselves and our families. In this endeavor we aim to improve the total welfare system at every level of government through changes in legislation and administration. We believe -

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD:

1. Establish a national standard for assistance payments under which no state can fall and continue to get federal funds.
2. Eliminate the federal categories in Public Assistance and include those people on General Assistance in the distribution of federal funds.
3. In the interim, increase the present maximum rate of reimbursement to all states for the AFDC Program to a rate comparable with other federally-aided categories.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD:

1. Immediately allocate \$70 million more to increase Public Assistance Grants to 100% of the minimum standard of health and decency and establish annual adjustments for changes in the cost of living. Grants now are only 71% of the minimum standard.
2. Increase the Public Assistance shelter allowance to 100% of the cost of shelter to a family and require landlords to provide decent housing.
3. Use affidavits instead of existing lengthy investigations (the "means test") to determine eligibility for assistance.
4. Provide an adequate social services program -- one that motivates self-improvement and helps to strengthen family ties by assuring services based upon the varying needs of individual families. Day Care and Homemaker Services are desperately needed.
5. Eliminate residence requirements, alien restrictions, and financial responsibility of relatives (other than spouses and parents of dependent children), as a condition for eligibility for Public Assistance.
6. Increase earned income exemptions to \$100 per person per month to increase work incentive.
7. Provide adequate cash grants as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program. In the interim, the program should be substantially reformed by lowering the amount of cash required to purchase food stamps.
8. Separate the jobs of providing services and the determining of eligibility for assistance.
9. Immediately provide special grants for clothing for school children, moving expenses, first months rent, security deposits for utilities, furniture, school expenses, etc.

(over please)

10. Lower Civil Service educational requirements so that recipients may be hired by the State as community workers, receptionists, case aids, telephone operators, etc.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD:

1. Reform application policies and procedures to permit all those eligible to receive Public Assistance, without delays, hardships, and indignities.
2. Support the Welfare Rights Organization in our efforts to solve our own problems and to bring about necessary changes through organized action.
3. Place PWRO representatives on the County Board of Assistance.

AND IN SO DOING GUARANTEE:

1. Adequate Income - Enough money to live above the poverty line.
2. Dignity - Full freedom, rights and respect accorded others.
3. Justice - Full protection of the Constitution, by free and open system.
4. Democracy - Direct participation by recipients in decisions which affect our lives.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REFORM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE?

1. Join a Welfare Rights Group and help work for these needed changes.
2. Form a Welfare Rights Group in your area (for further information call LO 8-2785).
3. Meet with the State and Federal Legislators who represent your area and let them know what changes you think the Public Assistance Program needs - Remember, it is his vote which can make the difference.
4. Write Governor Shafer.
5. Help raise money for the Welfare Rights Organization. Contact us if you have any ideas.
6. Tell your friends what needs to be done.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT !!!

November 1, 1967.

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