



THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE



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The Welfare Program is a Federal and State government partnership. The legislation permits the Federal Government to offer the services either through states or counties. If a State opts in and agrees to provide the services the requirement to develop a State service plan then rests with the State Government.

Overlooked in the entire welfare program is the fact that other than the categorical services for the old age, blind, and disabled, the programs must be designed for the short run to enable people to get off of welfare. The long-range goal is for temporary services during the period of short-term need while recipients seek gainful employment. However, if a state allocates costs to counties funding for themselves the program is self-defeating for the following reasons:

1. The counties that have most of the welfare cases are those in which there has been over time an economic upheaval. Basic jobs have been lost and not replaced. There simply is a substitution of historic high paying occupations with lower paying occupations. The net result is less purchasing power and increased welfare tax.
2. With less purchasing power a cycle of poverty develops that is tough to break. Those that are able to escape the cycle are those who can acquire marketable skills. However in most instances they do not remain in the county in which they initially resided when they lost their jobs. They have achieved their occupational advancement, moved, and reside where they have better job opportunities. The net result is that the counties that provide the services in fact lose the people who have escaped from the