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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today issued an Executive Order establishing a President's Council on Aging. He also asked Congress for legislation to authorize a 5-year \$50 million program of grants to improve services for the aged.

The purpose of the grants would be to provide Federal assistance to help train personnel for work in the field of aging and to provide Federal aid for pilot community planning projects and demonstration and research projects, to gain further knowledge about how the specific needs of older people can best be met.

The funds provided under the President's proposed bill would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. The project grants would go to State agencies, local communities, and to nonprofit institutions and organizations for projects which, in the opinion of the Secretary, can demonstrate or develop ways of dealing with problems faced by older people.

The training funds would be available as well to universities and other organizations proposing to step up their training programs for professional and technical personnel needed to provide the broad range of services required by older people.

The Council would consist of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, as chairman, and the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, and the Treasury, and the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, and the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. The Council will have the responsibility for making recommendations for Federal programs for the aged, arranging for concerted action by Federal agencies, and disseminating information among the Federal agencies and State, local and private agencies and organizations.

The President termed this action "an additional effort to strengthen our programs for older people."

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