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NEW FEDERALISM STUDY  
PRINCIPLES AND QUESTIONS

*gdr*  
[1970?]

Basic Administration Philosophy

Government in the United States is too large and too powerful and must be reduced. There should be greater opportunity for the American people to make for themselves fundamental choices about what is best for them.

Where it is essential that governments (rather than individuals and private organizations) make decisions or perform functions, these governmental activities should be as close to the people and as responsive to the people as possible.

Existing programs and new initiatives such as revenue sharing will be examined to see whether they express the basic philosophy and whether they achieve the following objectives and meet the test of associated questions:

Devolution of Functions

1. Government should seek to strengthen the role of the individual and to preserve a sense of individual worth, dignity and responsibility.

What actions have been taken to provide increased opportunities to individuals to make decisions related to their basic needs? What further actions should be taken?



2. Governmental functions should be provided by those levels best able and willing to serve the needs of the people. Based on an assessment of the appropriate roles for each level, there should be a devolution of Federal functions more effectively handled at the State and local level.

What program activities previously performed at the Federal level are now performed by State and local general purpose governments?

What additional program activities could be as effectively or better performed by State and local governments?

Do programs take advantage of appropriate opportunities to use established State and local auditing, reporting, fiscal and evaluation procedures? What further actions could be taken?

### Decentralization and Streamlining of Federal Programs

3. The Federal Government should decentralize to its field establishment those functions which must rest with the Federal Government so that decisions are made as close as possible to the locus of the problem.

What actions have been taken to decentralize to the Federal field establishment those functions which must remain Federal?



3. (Cont'd)

What additional program activities and authority should be decentralized to Federal field offices?

At what level within the program does final grant approval authority rest? Headquarters? Regional? Subregional? What specific actions should be taken to place it closer to the delivery of services?

To what extent have appropriate personnel, logistical and financial resources been transferred to Federal field offices to support increased responsibility and authority?

4. The Federal Government must cull out duplicative and competitive programs if government at all levels is to be responsive to new problems and issues. Procedures and processes involved in dealing with the Federal Government must be simplified.

What specific actions have been taken to consolidate duplicative or competitive activities within Federal programs? What further actions should be taken?

To what extent have unnecessary or overly complex reporting and accountability requirements been eliminated or simplified? What further actions should be taken?



4. (Cont'd)

What provisions have been made with other Federal agencies for consolidation, joint funding, simplification, or at least coordination in programmatically similar areas? What provisions should be made?

Increase State and Local Involvement

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5. There should be early and appropriate consultation with State and local elected officials on the planning and design of Federal programmatic responses to public needs and in setting priorities for the use of Federal funds within major program areas.

What specific actions have been taken to increase consultation with State and local elected officials in program design and program policy decisions and in setting priorities for Federal funds within broad programmatic categories? What further actions should be taken?

6. State and local elected officials should, to the maximum possible extent, have responsibility for administration and management of federally assisted programs within their respective jurisdictions.

What specific actions have been taken to increase the role of State and local governments in the management and administration of federally assisted programs? What further actions should be taken?



6. (Cont'd)

Do program regulations allow State and local executives choice in the designation of the appropriate State and local agency or method used in the operation of programs?

What Federal program activities are now performed by State and local special purpose bureaucracies which could be just as well performed by general purpose governments? What program changes should be made to achieve this?

Cooperative Efforts to Improve Management

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7. Federal, State and local governments should cooperate in developing the necessary management, planning, and evaluation skills that will enable all levels of government to manage more effectively and efficiently.

What specific actions have been taken to provide or support technical assistance to State and local general purpose governments in improving their management capability? What further actions should be taken?

To what extent are the three levels of government cooperating to develop the necessary management, planning, and evaluation skills that will enable them to administer programs more effectively and efficiently? What actions should be taken by the Federal level to improve such cooperation?



8. The Federal Government should promote research, experimentation, and innovation in support of more effective and responsive government at all levels and the improvement of State and local management capability.

What actions have been taken to improve the Federal Government's capacity to conduct effective research and experimentation so that it may stimulate the achievement of more effective and responsive government at all levels? What further actions should be taken?

What provisions exist to allow State and local innovation in using Federal funds to respond to social and community development problems? What provisions should exist?

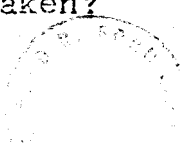
What specific actions should be taken to ease administrative guidelines, regulations, and reporting requirements to allow for greater State and local innovation and initiative in program development and design?

#### Increase Private Sector Involvement

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9. The Federal Government should create the proper climate for involvement of the private sector in generating ideas and resources to achieve solutions.

What specific actions have been taken to increase private sector involvement in, or responsibility for, program activities? What further actions should be taken?



9. (Cont'd)

Do programs fully utilize opportunities to involve organizations and groups outside the State or local agency?

If a public service can best be provided by the private sector, what program changes are required to take advantage of that opportunity?

Equal Opportunity

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10. It is a proper function of government to assure that all the people have equal access to the basic opportunities that our culture, economy, laws, and system of government offer.

What specific actions have been taken to ensure that all groups within our society are assured full information on, and equal access to, services provided? What further actions should be taken?

What specific actions have been taken to ensure adequate consultation with directly affected groups on program activities, including design and service delivery? What further actions should be taken?