Executive Order
WPC 88-7

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S WELFARE REFORM TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, one of the primary purposes of the Job Training Partnership Act is to prepare economically disadvantaged persons to enter the workforce; and
WHEREAS, there is an extremely high recidivism rate in welfare programs; and
WHEREAS, the need for child care services and health care are major concerns of welfare families who by definition have dependent children;
NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of the State of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the GOVERNOR'S WELFARE REFORM TASK FORCE hereinafter referred to as the TASK FORCE.

I. Purpose
The TASK FORCE shall evaluate, analyze, and recommend to the Governor statutory and policy changes impacting the State's welfare system in order to increase the size of the workforce and increase the standard of living for all Texans.

II. Functions
The TASK FORCE shall:
1. Work to improve and facilitate relations among the various state agencies and councils mandated to serve the economically underprivileged population of the state;
2. Conduct and evaluate pilot programs which pool the resources of the agencies and organizations represented on the TASK FORCE and other appropriate state agencies in an effort to decrease the recidivism rate, including pilot programs involving the flexible use of child care assistance, health care benefits and other support services to welfare recipients who have secured employment;
3. Evaluate other creative partnerships for improving the likelihood that recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) who enter the workforce will remain in the workforce; and
4. Encourage development of volunteer networks for support of AFDC families.

III. Organization
1. The TASK FORCE shall consist of up to ten members appointed by the Governor, including a representative of the Texas Department of Human Services, a representative of the State Job Training Coordinating Council, and a representative of the Texas Association of Private Industry Councils.
2. The Governor shall designate the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the TASK FORCE.
3. The members of the TASK FORCE shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of actual expenses.
4. The Texas Department of Human Services shall provide the staff necessary to assist the TASK FORCE in performing its duties.
5. The TASK FORCE shall meet at the call of the Chairman. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall, in consultation with the Governor, establish the agenda for TASK FORCE meetings.

IV. Reports
The TASK FORCE shall submit to the Governor an evaluation of the results of the pilot programs with recommendations on suggested policy and statutory changes to break the employment-unemployment cycle and to improve the recidivism rate of welfare recipients.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Given under my hand this 1st day of June, 1988.

William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas

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