

To The Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor  
To The Honorable The City Council

Annual Report of the  
Department of Public Welfare for the  
Twelve Months Ended September 30, 1955

January 19, 1956

To the Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor, and the Honorable the City Council:

In compliance with the ordinances of the City of Providence, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1955.

#### FOREWORD

The following pages present an accurate accounting of our annual expenditures. After four years of declining costs since the high point of the 1949 - 1950 fiscal year we experienced a reversal in the cost trend. The case load climbed steadily from October through March when a decline set in. In September however, at the end of the fiscal year, our case load and weekly costs were still above those prevailing twelve months earlier. Our experience reflects the persistence of a chronic unemployment problem in spite of a high level of general business activity. We can expect relief only through an expansion of the labor market beyond minor seasonal fluctuations.

#### THE PROGRAM

It seems appropriate at a time when we report to you on the details of our annual expenditures to call to mind once again the truly important place of General Public Assistance in the broad system of social security. By the end of 1955 the Social Security Act had been in operation over twenty years. Changes made in it during the two decades have related to particular features of the individual security measures established under the Act. While the system has grown its growth fails to show very much evidence of balance and proportion. Presumably it was originally intended that as the various measures accomplished the purposes for which they were established, General Public Assistance eventually would become but a residual security program. Twenty years having passed we find that not to be the fact.

General Public Assistance is the oldest and continues to be the

basic program of public assistance. Unlike other security measures it does not restrict eligibility to more or less clearly defined groups. In principle it provides for any needy person. The degree of its importance varies with changes in employment conditions. It carries the burdens resulting from the inadequacies of all other security measures. It stands as the final guarantee of freedom from want.

#### STAFF

As in past years, it should again be pointed out that the sound investment of funds for public welfare is dependent upon a staff that is adequate in number and in competence. Our turnover in personnel has been frequent and has created difficulties for staff and administration. It is not humanly possible to cover caseloads with the intensity we desire when we have numerous and frequent staff vacancies. They present no minor handicap to us in our effort to provide sound service. Our staff members have done an admirable job in the face of difficulties. I am grateful for their loyalty and earnestness.

To Your Honor and to you Gentlemen of the City Council I am indebted for your encouragement and support.

Respectfully submitted,

*James V. Mc Govern*  
Director of Public Welfare

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JAN 19 1956

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*D. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1955

	<u>Personal Services</u>	<u>Services Other Than Personal</u>	<u>Materials &amp; Supplies</u>	<u>Special Items</u>	<u>Equipment Outlay</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Welfare Activities						
Welfare Administration	\$ 34,487.74	\$ 218.19	\$ 471.34			\$ 35,177.27
General Public Assistance Administration	197,139.29	17,825.03	7,718.62		1,129.90	223,812.84
General Public Assistance Home Relief		<u>199,542.37</u>	<u>143,980.22</u>	<u>1,506,845.41</u>		<u>1,850,368.00</u>
Total Welfare Activities	\$231,627.03	\$217,585.59	\$152,170.18	\$1,506,845.41	\$1,129.90	\$2,109,358.11

Details of Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1955

Welfare Activities

Welfare Administration

Personal Services

001 Salaries - Permanent Positions

002 Salaries - Temporary Positions

Total

\$32,212.64  
2,275.10

\$34,487.74

Services Other Than Personal

109 Fees Not Otherwise Classified - Including

Automobile Registration and Licenses

144 Repairs to Automobiles and Trucks (Municipal Garage)

Total

4.00  
214.19

218.19

Materials and Supplies

211 Motor Fuel

212 Lubricants

213 Tires and Tubes

Total

420.47  
18.80  
32.07

471.34

Total Welfare Administration

\$35,177.27

Details of Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1955

General Public Assistance - Administration

Personal Services	
001 Salaries - Permanent Positions	
Total	<u>\$197,139.29</u>
Services Other Than Personal	
109 Fees Not Otherwise Classified - Including	
Automobile Registration and Licenses	39.25
111 Telephone and Telegraph	7,026.11
112 Postage, Freight and Express	1,324.04
114 Automobile Allowance	300.00
115 Transportation of Persons - Conventions	91.81
116 Transportation (Social Workers)	848.66
117 Travel Subsistence - Conventions	238.00
118 Travel Subsistence - Other	1,200.00
121 Printed Reports	337.34
131 Heat, Light and Power	3,889.51
134 Water - Payment to Water Supply Board	136.62
141 Repairs to Office Machinery, Furniture and Furnishings	223.88
149 Repairs to Other Equipment	17.85
150 Repairs to Buildings	939.29
161 Rental of Office Machinery and Equipment	3.60
163 Rental of Other Equipment	174.00
164 Rental of Equipment (Public Works Revolving Fund)	92.50
181 Laundry and Cleaning	93.00
183 Dues and Subscriptions	94.50
199 Miscellaneous Services Not Otherwise Classified	<u>755.07</u>
Total	17,825.03

\$197,139.29

Details of Expenditures - continued

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1955

Materials and Supplies

201 Stationery, Printed Forms and Office Supplies	\$2,093.75
229 Repair Parts and Supplies for Other Equipment	165.00
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	8.11
232 Pharmaceuticals	31.70
241 Fuel	4,677.29
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment	702.53
267 Paint and Painter's Supplies	9.50
268 Plumbing and Electrical Supplies	30.74
Total	<u>7,718.62</u>

Capital Outlay

501 Office Furniture, Machinery and Equipment	<u>1,129.90</u>	
Total	<u>1,129.90</u>	
Total - General Public Assistance Administration		<u>\$223,812.84</u>

Details of Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1955

General Public Assistance - Home Relief Grants

Services Other Than Personal	
102 Medical Services	\$33,129.25
116 Transportation	106.36
169 Rentals Not Otherwise Classified	2,075.05
184 Hospitalization	146,382.60
185 Burials	17,849.11
Total	<u>\$199,542.37</u>

Materials and Supplies	
202 Small Tools and Shop Supplies	9.00
204 Wearing Apparel and Personal Supplies	13.41
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	6,695.35
232 Pharmaceuticals	25,639.30
241 Fuel	2,357.42
242 Food	109,075.04
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment	190.70
Total	<u>143,980.22</u>

Special Items	
351 Cash Direct Relief	<u>1,506,845.41</u>
Total	<u>1,506,845.41</u>

Total - General Public Assistance - Home Relief Grants	<u>\$1,850,368.00</u>
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GRAND TOTAL - WELFARE ACTIVITIES	<u>\$2,109,358.11</u>
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BUREAU OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Record of Cases  
Oct. 1, 1954 to Sept. 30, 1955

Non-support of Families.....	199
Non-support of Parents.....	7
Minor's Permit to Marry.....	12
Illegitimacy.....	289
Report on Reciprocal Legislation.....	32
Lawyer's Referral.....	26

Cash Received

Non-support arrangements	\$32,753.39	Warrants issued	72
Illegitimacy payments a/c	18,605.00	Arraignments	65
Final settlements on		Appeals	9
Illegitimacy cases	3,740.00	Trials	43
Hospital payments on		Cases closed	220
Illegitimacy cases	<u>2,415.45</u>		
TOTAL	\$57,513.84		

DEXTER ASYLUM

Table Showing by months the number of persons admitted, the number discharged, the number of deaths, and the total number remaining, both men and women.

For the Fiscal Year 1954 - 1955

<u>1954</u>	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Remaining	Men	Women	Native Born	Foreign Born
October	0	0	2	36	22	14	27	9
November	0	1	2	33	19	14	25	8
December	0	0	1	32	19	13	25	7
<u>1955</u>								
January	0	1	1	30	17	13	24	6
February	1	0	0	31	17	14	25	6
March	0	0	0	31	17	14	25	6
April	0	1	1	29	16	13	23	6
May	0	1	0	28	16	12	22	6
June	0	0	0	28	16	12	22	6
July	0	0	0	28	16	12	22	6
August	0	0	0	28	16	12	22	6
September	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	28	16	12	22	6
Total	1	4	7					

There was one less admitted during the past year than in the previous fiscal year; one less discharged and one more in number of deaths.

DEXTER ASYLUM

A table showing the total expenditures, the total receipts and the net expenditures of the Institution every three months during the Fiscal Years 1953 - 1954 - 1955.

Fiscal Year 1954 - 1955

<u>Quarter Ending Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Institution Expenses</u>	<u>Other Receipts</u>	<u>Board of Residents</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>
December '54	\$21,924.45	\$10.12	\$1,632.43	\$20,281.90
March '55	24,036.99	11.77	1,100.17	22,925.05
June '55	23,117.03	6.68	1,210.14	21,900.21
September '55	<u>24,063.37</u>	<u>35.90</u>	<u>1,010.71</u>	<u>23,016.76</u>
Total	\$93,141.84	\$64.47	\$4,953.45	\$88,123.92

Fiscal Year 1953 - 1954

December '53	\$23,985.75	\$ 5.54	\$1,840.78	\$22,139.43
March '54	26,320.68	5.93	1,733.78	24,580.97
June '54	24,373.87	5.62	1,716.03	22,652.22
September '54	<u>25,666.40</u>	<u>34.72</u>	<u>1,691.62</u>	<u>23,940.06</u>
Total	\$100,346.70	\$51.81	\$6,982.21	\$93,312.68

The Statistics for Dexter Asylum for the Fiscal Year 1954 - 1955

The number of residents October 1, 1954	38	
" " " " admitted during year	<u>1</u>	
Total		39
The number of residents discharged	4	
" " " " died	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
" " " " remaining Sept.30, 1955		28

Average Number of Residents 30

Total Expense of Dexter Asylum for Fiscal Year		\$93,141.84
Received for Board of Residents	\$4,953.45	
Other Receipts	<u>64.47</u>	
Total Receipts.....		<u>5,017.92</u>
Net Expense.....		\$88,123.92