

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF FOUR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

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ABSTRACT

The subject of regional economic development is explored with particular emphasis on the role of public investment coordination in stimulating economic development. A section on the National Association of Regional Councils describes the organization and its membership. The relationship of regional economic development to geography is discussed with a focus on the bases of economic growth being the primary geographic factors involved. The failure of past federal approaches to enable the coordination of public investment for regional economic development is described as are the new federal approaches including the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Following these sections is a discussion of the problems which exist with federal program coordination efforts for regional economic development. Conclusions and recommendations follow the section on the problems with federal government coordination.

Included within the Appendices to illustrate the magnitude of the existing federal grants-in-aid programs are seven research papers prepared for the National Association of Regional Councils. The papers contain the following: the accomplishments of selected regional councils in both economic development planning and manpower planning; a complete list of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, including their city, state, population, and the title of the planning agency; rural transportation planning profiles for selected states; an analysis of the new surplus property program's effect on the regional councils;

and, a matrix of the major federal programs affecting regional councils. The central argument is that the federal government's failure to integrate and enable the effective coordination of federal programs has reduced the influence the programs have on the economic development of any region.