

# The Home Front In National Defense



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*Issued by the Office of Defense  
Health and Welfare Services  
of the*  
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY



In the United States today “keep the home fires burning” has a new meaning.

It means that a million and a half young men have already joined the armed forces of national defense.

It means that still more millions, men and women too, have been recruited to the “army in overalls” that mans the industrial lines of national defense.

It means that *all* the people throughout the whole country must put their shoulders to the wheel.

It means that *all* the machinery of our Government, Federal, State, and local, is working together to strengthen community self-service—for health, for recreation, for education, and for family security.

Here is how the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services explains the *what*, *where*, and *how* of home front defense.

### What it is:

The Home Front is where we live and how we live—all of us, 130 million Americans. Strengthening the home front means doing a better job



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shoulders to the wheel.

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than we have ever done to make our common life worth living in our own home towns:

We must see that everybody has enough food and the right kind of food.

We must protect people's health.

We must be ready to work harder and better.

We must make hours off-work happy and worthwhile and interesting through the kind of recreation that is, as the word itself says, *re-creation* of heart, and mind, and body.

We must provide schools for children, vocational training for young people preparing for future jobs, and older workers looking toward better jobs.

We must safeguard the security of families by seeing that people have decent houses to live in, and that homes are not broken up because of poverty, illness, and other disaster.



Recreation of  
heart, mind, and body.

There is nothing new about any of this. We have been working for all these kinds of self-service a long time. But we cannot now afford to take them for granted or to be satisfied with a piecemeal job.

What is new is that *total* defense demands the *total* strength of the Nation. And for the strength of the Nation, we must do a better and a bigger job of community self-service than ever before.

### Where it is:

The advance line of the home front stretches

across the continent, East, West, North, and South, and on to the outlying bases—from Alaska to Puerto Rico from the Philippines to Newfoundland.

It is made up of all the villages and towns and cities—several hundred of them—that are next door neighbors to our Army posts and naval stations and defense industries.

Most of these communities are—or were—small. With the coming of defense, their populations, military and civilian, have doubled, tripled, increased by four or five or even ten times.

Overcrowded defense towns are likely to be short of everything—houses, schools, sanitation, hospitals, and especially recreation space and equipment for soldiers, sailors, and defense workers when they “go to town.”

The townspeople want to make our defense forces feel at home. They are tackling their defense problems as best they can. But they cannot do the job alone. They need all the help other people, other communities, and the Nation as a whole can give them.

No matter whether you live far away—no matter if you never see a soldier or sailor on your streets, or defense workers pouring in and out of factories—you have a stake in “keeping the home fires burning” in these defense towns. They are the front line of home defense.



Schools for children—  
young people—older  
workers.



Overcrowded defense  
towns.

The men in our armed forces, the men and women on the industrial production line, come from everywhere. Many of them come from *your* State, *your* county, *your* town. What happens to them while they live in these new defense towns is important to their families at home and to you.

But the home front does not end with defense towns. *Your* State, *your* county, *your* town also have a job to do. You and your neighbors must keep your own "home fires burning" too. Serving your own community is serving the Nation. For our home towns are the great reservoirs of our national strength and health and morale.



Townpeople want to make our defense forces feel at home.

### How it works:

An all-out job calls for an all-out plan. The framework of home front defense covers the Nation. It calls for, and has a place for, the services of all.

The Federal Government is responsible for organizing the over-all national program. Its first aim is to strengthen the hands of all local communities—and particularly of overcrowded defense towns. It does not do the job for them; it simply helps them do their own job better than they could single-handed.

Within the national framework, both Federal, State, and local government agencies and voluntary private organizations have a definite place. Local organizations and local people, of course, do all they can,

just as local governments give all the service they can in their own communities.

Find out what is being done, and how you can help in your own town. The task is tremendous. There is more than enough for all to do. The wholehearted answer we give to the *what*, *where*, and *how* of the home front is the measure of our national strength and unity.

The answer we give depends on you and your 130 million fellow citizens.



## THE FRAMEWORK OF HOME FRONT DEFENSE

*The Federal Government* has two agencies concerned with home front defense: *The Office of Civilian Defense* is responsible for maintaining channels of cooperation between the Federal Government and State and local defense councils; for helping to develop civilian

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defense measures to protect life and property in the event of emergency; and for organizing a plan of volunteer service for participation in national defense.

*The Federal Security Administrator* has been named Director of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services. The Director's office is responsible for Nationwide activities in connection with health, nutrition, education, recreation, family security, and social protection against venereal disease.

Within the framework set up by the Director, six national voluntary agencies—the YMCA, the YWCA, the National Catholic Community Service, the Jewish Welfare Board, the Salvation Army, and the National Travelers Aid Society—have incorporated the *United Service Organizations*. Its purpose is to cooperate wherever help is needed in providing for the recreation and welfare of soldiers, sailors, and defense workers. The USO will operate servicemen's clubs and similar activities



Welfare of soldiers, sailors, defense workers.

in defense towns that cannot alone provide all the leisure-time activities required to take care of their new defense populations.

*Defense councils* have been set up in nearly all the States and in many cities and towns. These councils are concerned with all local activities that contribute to home defense. They cooperate with the Federal agencies and help to tie together voluntary activities related to home front defense in their own communities.

Many places also have special committees working with State and local defense councils on such problems as recreation, family security, and nutrition.

You can find out about home front defense in *your* town from the information service organized under your local defense council or your local government.



The framework covers  
the nation.

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