**How Social Policies are implemented**

Social Policy implementation involves putting adopted policies into effect. Successful implementation is dependent upon three elements.

**Organization**

First, Social policies must be passed down from the president or state and local government officials to the appropriate agency within the government bureaucracy. Thus, a policy designed to enforce traffic safety by cutting down on the number of drunk drivers would be passed down to law enforcement officials for implementation. When no existing agency has the capabilities to carry out a given policy, new agencies must be established and staffed. This is reflected most clearly in the “alphabet soup” agencies established by Franklin D. Roosevelt under the New Deal.

**Interpretation**

The second element essential to effective Social policy implementation is clear interpretation. In other words, legislative intent must be translated into operating rules and guidelines. Too much ambiguity in this stage can lead to involvement by the judiciary that will force legislators to clarify their ends and means for policy implementation. The judiciary may overrule the implementation of policies where legislative intent cannot be effectively translated into appropriate operating rules and guidelines.

**Application**

The final element needed in effective policy implementation is also difficult to accomplish. The dedication of resources to implement the policy under the first element must be joined with coordination of the policy with ongoing operations. In other words, a new initiative or agency must not cause excessive competition or disagreement with existing initiatives or agencies.

In addition to the aforementioned elements, Social policy implementation can further be complicated when policies are passed down to agencies without a great deal of direction. Social Policy formulation is often the result of compromise and symbolic uses of politics. Therefore, implementation imposes a large amount of both discretion and confusion in agencies that administer policies. In addition, bureaucratic incompetence, ineptitude, and scandals may complicate the policy implementation process.

The above issues with Social policy implementation have led some scholars to conclude that new policy initiatives will either fail to get off the ground or will take considerable time to be enacted. The most surprising aspect of the policy process may be that policies are implemented at all.