

Chapter VIII

BACKING YOU UP



The cutting edge of the Sister City Program is the individual and his or her community organization. The bulk of this handbook outlines proven techniques for stimulating community support for the Sister City concept and discusses the personal and collective benefits to be derived from citizen diplomacy. The emphasis is entirely on local activity. There are, however, sources of assistance that can be tapped at the state, national and international levels which are vital if you want the best advice possible for local program planning. This chapter will note some of the ways in which they may be related to your program.



The State Level

Here you have first of all the TAA State Representatives. They will assist in getting new affiliations launched and work with state agencies and affiliated Sister Cities to promote the movement. Contact TAA for the name and address of your State Representative. A few states, such as California, have state-wide associations of Sister Cities that meet periodically for exchanges of views and experiences. They conduct workshops and make program advice and materials developed locally available to new members.



The National Level

The support services available from the Town Affiliation Association - which include this handbook - are described throughout these pages; there is no need to repeat them here. One not previously mentioned, however, is the group insurance for Sister City travelers negotiated by TAA which provides low cost accident and medical protection through a major American insurance company. The plan covers exchange students and Sister City travelers. Application forms, details and rate information are available from TAA.