

public hearing in the county in which one or more sites are proposed.

(b) Each county is authorized to acquire, by lease, purchase, or otherwise, including condemnation, facilities and sites for facilities located in the county, for use as a center. This authority includes the authority to construct and renovate facilities on sites acquired by the county. However, the county shall not exercise the authority granted in this section unless the Secretary has determined that:

(1) There is a need in the county for the center;

(2) The proposed site and facility are appropriate; and

(3) The facility is, or upon completion will be, consistent with the standards adopted pursuant to § 709. If a county is divided into councilmanic districts or contains more than one legislative district, it may, by ordinance, provide that it will not place more than one center acquired by it under this subsection (b) in a councilmanic or legislative district unless there is a center in each councilmanic or legislative district in the county.

(c) If, within 18 months after the Secretary certifies a need for a center, the county or counties in a region fail to submit to the Secretary a proposed site and plans for a facility on it consistent with the standards adopted pursuant to § 709, the Secretary shall declare the county or counties in default. The Secretary may, for good cause shown, extend this time for not more than an additional six months.

(d) Upon a determination of a county's default, the Secretary shall, within six months and after holding a public hearing in the county, recommend a site for the center for approval by the Board of Public Works. Upon approval of a site by the Board, the State is authorized to exercise the authority granted in subsection (b).

(e) The counties are authorized, as an extension of the authority granted in subsection (b), to enter into agreements with each other and with the State for the location, acquisition, construction, and renovation of facilities for a regional center to serve more than one county. In that event, the conditions stated in subsection (b) shall be applicable to the proposed regional center.

(f) Upon a default, as specified in subsection (c), the Secretary may recommend to the Board of Public Works a site for a regional center in lieu of a county center; and the Board may approve such a site. If the Board approves a site for a regional center, the State is authorized to exercise the authority granted in subsection (b) to acquire, construct, and renovate facilities for a regional center.