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**Provision for the Needy in the Big City. The Municipality of Sofia  
and the Public Relief System (1934-1939)**

(Summary)

The changes in local government status and in the state's social policy which were introduced after the coup d'état of 19 May 1934, had their distinct repercussions on the social activities of the biggest municipality in Bulgaria - the Municipality of Sofia. The article deals with the various directions and means of social relief which was carried out by municipal authorities: establishment and upkeep of orphanages and asylums for the aged who were poor and lonely, of free school canteens and soup kitchens, of daycare centers and summer school camps, provision of medical care for the ailing poor, etc. Special emphasis is laid on the contacts between social services and community charity organizations. Conclusions are drawn about the balance achieved between the role of the state and the specific needs of the big city.