

is reasonable for the quality, location, amenities, and management services of the building.

The Regional Planning Council (RPC) administers the Section 8 Existing Program in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties, Annapolis and Baltimore City.

The Moderate Rehabilitation Program is a new program designed to help improve existing multi-family rental units that need repair or renovation. It is part of the Section 8 Existing Program. Under the Moderate Rehabilitation Program, the private landlord rehabilitates the unit—often with Community Development Administration financing—and then CDA, on behalf of the tenant, commits rent subsidies to the unit for a period of fifteen years. These rent subsidies are funded by the federal government.

## **DIVISION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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In July 1976 the Division of Local and Regional Development was established to provide more effective management and coordination of the Department's assistance to local governments and regional organizations in their efforts to develop and implement economic development, housing, and historical-cultural programs. In cooperation with local officials, the Division also provides training and management systems assistance aimed at strengthening the management capacity of local units of government.

When providing assistance, the Division places primary emphasis on those local or regional programs for which the Department can deliver specific resources and/or programs for which the Department can obtain or coordinate use of related State and federal resources.

The Division helps local and regional officials identify development problems or issues, assess alternative courses of action, design specific action programs, and obtain Department, other state and federal resources useful in implementing development programs.

As a clearinghouse for Departmental services to sub-state units of government, the Division coor-

dinates State and local involvement with a number of federal programs related to economic development, housing, and historical-cultural matters.

The Division's Office of Development Assistance administers Maryland's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) development program and grant process. The Office ensures full use of available ARC resources designed to stimulate economic and community development projects and activities in Western Maryland.

To facilitate liaison with the three western counties of the State, the Division maintains the Department's Western Maryland Regional Development Office in Hagerstown.

The Division undertakes responsibilities for the Department as the designated State agency for the coordination of Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs in Maryland through assistance aimed at implementation of an Economic Development Planning Program. It coordinates the submission of development projects for funding by EDA.

The Division also carries out responsibilities for the Department as the Governor's designated State liaison agency with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for implementation of the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program and the Urban Development Action Grant program in Maryland. Direct technical assistance is provided to local governments and regional organizations to help them develop plans and applications for these programs. In addition, the Division assists local governments in obtaining Departmental housing-related resources to complement local programs using Federal Block Grant funds.

The Division serves as the Department's liaison with the U. S. Department of Agriculture rural housing and development programs, which provide resources relevant to Maryland's local and regional development activities.

The Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund (MICRF) became operational in July 1980. It is responsible for the administration of state grants and loans to local governments in support of their business redevelopment efforts.

The Office of Cultural Administration serves as the Department's policy and administrative link with six independent commissions that deal with history, culture, and the arts.

The Office of Training and Management Assistance administers training programs for local governments.