

[[b]] (C) As funds become available, the Secretary may extend the battered spouses program or any portion thereof to other areas in this State. Expansion of the program may include the establishment of additional shelters or the provision of funds and technical assistance to local organizations or agencies which demonstrate a capability and willingness to administer a battered spouse program.

[[c]] (D) The Secretary shall annually submit a report to the Maryland General Assembly which shall include a report on the program.

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[Funds for the establishment and operation of the model shelter home shall be provided as follows:

(a) The Secretary of Human Resources shall by rule and regulation set charges for services rendered by the model shelter home. The rules and regulations shall require that:

(1) Housing shall be provided by the model shelter home only if the applicant for housing assigns to the State, to the extent of any charges for services of the model shelter home, any right, title, and interest in support from any source or person that the applicant has in his or her own behalf, or in behalf of any other family members for whom he or she is applying for housing, including any right accrued when the assignment is executed.

(2) Payment of any charge, or a portion thereof, for services of the model shelter home shall be waived by the Department of Human Resources if, after an investigation of the financial condition of the person receiving services and the person's spouse, the Department determines that the financial means of the person receiving services and the person's spouse are insufficient to make the required payment.

(3) Collection of any unpaid charge for services of the model shelter home shall be made by the central collection unit within the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning. In collecting any unpaid charges, the central collection unit shall have the right to sue, for recovery of such charges, the spouse who committed the battering act which caused the spouse who incurred such charges to become a battered spouse.

(4) Any payment made pursuant to this subparagraph for services of the model shelter home shall be applied toward the costs of establishment and operation of the model shelter home.

(b) The State shall pay fifty percent of the cost of establishment and operation of the model shelter home which remains after the application of any funds received under (a) above, provided that the Secretary of Human Resources