

THIS STATE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, TO PRESERVE FAMILY UNITY, AND TO PROMOTE FAMILY STABILITY BY:

(1) PROVIDING ESSENTIAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN CARING FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN IN THE HOME; AND

(2) DIMINISHING THE USE OF RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN.

15-203.

(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL ESTABLISH A FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM IN MARYLAND.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE NONPROFIT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT A SLIDING PAYMENT SCALE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM FAMILIES FINANCIALLY ABLE TO PAY FOR ALL OR PART OF THE SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(C) (1) BEFORE USING PROGRAM FUNDS, THE PROGRAM SHALL COORDINATE AND ASSIST ANY ELIGIBLE CHILD AND FAMILY IN RECEIVING SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER EXISTING PROGRAMS INCLUDING:

(I) RESPITE CARE UNDER ARTICLE 88A, SECTION 128 OF THE CODE;

(II) DAY CARE SERVICES;

(III) HOMEMAKER SERVICES;

(IV) PERSONAL CARE;

(V) SERVICES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER ARTICLE 88A, SECTION 121 OF THE CODE;

(VI) CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNDER § 15-125 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE;

(VII) ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES UNDER § 21-502 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND

(VIII) OTHER APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND LOCAL PROGRAMS.

(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST IN PROVIDING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES THAT ARE NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE.

15-204.