

The U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has advised Maryland that emergency assistance is available, with the Federal government sharing from 50 to 75 percent of the costs of services provided by the State to emergency recipients.

At the same time, the Governor announced that he has directed the State Health Department to speed the processing and payment of all bills owed by the State to merchants in the ghetto areas.

Many of these businessmen whose stores have been destroyed have large amounts owed them because of their participation in such State programs as Medicaid. Under normal circumstances, several months might transpire before payment is made.

The Governor said that because of the severe hardship involved, the State will waive much of the complicated paper work involved in such transactions in order to speed up the payments.

"Our primary concern is to assist the innocent victims of the recent civil disorders in every way possible and as quickly as possible." Governor Agnew said.

NEWS RELEASE ON ACTION TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS OF THE GHETTO

April 25, 1968

Governor Agnew called today on Maryland's Negro college youth and returning Negro veterans of Vietnam to help solve the problems of the ghetto, which recently erupted into violence in Baltimore.

"If progress is to come in the next decade, we must begin with the young," he said in a memorandum to Dr. Gilbert Ware, his staff member in Human Relations, and a Negro.

"The problems, as you so well know, are awesome; the need for fresh vision and dialogue is imperative," he said. "Here we have to overcome not only the barriers of racial misunderstanding and economic deprivation but the very real gulf between generations."

The Governor proposed formation of a Governor's youth council, composed of Negro college students, "to advise us on the particular problems of the ghetto child and to serve as tutors and counselors." The council would, as other State commissions, be nonpaid but would be charged with marshaling self-help and recreation programs in ghetto areas.