

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED

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The Governor's Committee to Promote Employment of the Handicapped was established by the Governor in 1947 in response to a request by the President of the United States. The Governor appoints the chairman and committee members, and all serve without compensation. Committee funds are used for the salaries of the Executive Secretary, a clerk-typist, promotional materials, stationery and printing, postage, contest prizes, expansion of local programs, and conferences.

The Governor's Committee functions primarily as an educational and public relations instrument to create a public awareness of the problems faced by handicapped individuals in finding employment; to cooperate with all groups, public and private, in promoting services for the handicapped; and to initiate and promote programs to stimulate hiring the handicapped. Annual regional conferences are held particularly in conjunction with National Employ the Handicapped Week.

To reach all sections of the State, twenty-four local committees have been organized, one in each county and one in Baltimore. The Governor's Committee acts as liaison between the President's Committee and local committees. To coordinate the program and to keep committees informed on State and national activities, a newsletter goes out to over 300 volunteer members in the State. The committee sponsors annual writing and poster contests among high school juniors and seniors as a means of arousing public awareness of the employment and rehabilitation programs for Maryland's disabled citizens. An annual Awards program recognizes outstanding employees, citizens, and handicapped individuals in the State.

In 1968, the Governor's Committee co-sponsored legislation resulting in a law and regulations establishing standards of facilities for building public buildings which are accessible for the handicapped. The Committee constantly disseminates information regarding the regulations and their enforcement and has introduced new legislation on behalf of the handicapped. In 1969, the Committee printed and distributed a Handbook, *Guide for Action*; and in 1973 reprinted it, incorporating a Directory of Services for the Handicapped and an annual report.

In 1973, funds for the work of the Committee were provided by the State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, in the amount of approximately \$28,700; and in 1974, \$32,800, which includes salaries for one professional person and one office secretary.