

The Division administers Maryland's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) development program and grant process to ensure 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 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 in Maryland. Direct technical assistance is provided to local governments and regional organizations to help them develop program plans and applications for Block Grant funds. 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.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Robert Sobus, *Director*

2525 Riva Road
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2144

The Division of Public Affairs (formerly the Division of News and Publications) was created in July 1974 to expand the Department's liaison with representatives of the general, industrial, and other news media and with public relations personnel of business and industry and other groups located in Maryland. The Division's primary objective is to create a better public understanding of Department programs. It strives to accomplish this through an outflow of information to representatives of the news media, publication of

Maryland Magazine, and production of many Departmental publications, including the *Directory of Maryland Manufacturers* (biennially, even years), and the *Directory of Science Resources for Maryland* (biennially, odd years), *Directory of Maryland Exporters-Importers* (triennially). The Division also produces appropriate audio-visual exhibits and presentations in support of or in conjunction with Departmental activities. It also coordinates all paid advertising by the Department.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Robert M. Sparks, *Director*

2525 Riva Road
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2120

The Division of Administrative Services was established by order of the Secretary in April 1976 to integrate several essential support services for the Department. It provides advice, guidance, and technical support to the Department's senior program directors and operating components in various areas of administrative management, and serves as the primary focus of responsibility for the following: development, monitoring, and evaluation of program plans; development of Departmental budget proposals and projections; maintenance of fund accounts; and purchasing of products and services required for the conduct of Departmental activities. The Division also provides comprehensive mail room services, maintains liaison with building management to assure proper repair and upkeep of grounds and facilities, and monitors use of Departmental motor vehicles.

MARYLAND HOUSING FUND

Benjamin L. Hackerman, *Director*

2525 Riva Road
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2875

The Maryland Housing Fund was established by Chapter 669, Acts of 1971. The primary aim of the Housing Fund is to stimulate home ownership for those of various income levels. The General Assembly found that the flow of private investment capital into the home financing sector of the housing industry could be stimulated by a mortgage program that would insure qualified lending institutions against losses. The Fund is backed by \$30,000,000 in State general obligation bonds and is operated through many lending institutions in the State (Code 1957, Art. 41,