

expenses. The Office was responsible for developing the statewide Minimum Livability Code and administering the Livability Code Implementation Grant Program.

To keep local governments and other providers of housing informed about housing matters, the Division publishes a monthly newsletter, *Talk About Housing*. The Division also carries on an applied research and demonstration program to encourage builders to construct energy efficient, affordable housing for low-income families.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

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Formerly under the Department of Human Resources, the Community Services Block Grant Program became part of the Department of Housing and Community Development in 1987. The Program funds and technically assists eligible anti-poverty community action programs that work, through a variety of mechanisms, to increase the self-sufficiency of low-income people. The Program also serves as a clearinghouse for information on and access to other State and federal programs useful to community action organizations.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) was created by the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. It replaced earlier categorical grants made by the federal Community Services Administration to local community action agencies. Block Grant funds are granted for administrative and program costs to enable local agencies to serve primarily the elderly poor, near poor, and working poor of their communities. These funds are allocated to twelve community agencies and four limited-purpose agencies operating in the State. The State of Maryland accepted responsibility for the anti-poverty program in fiscal year 1982.

Agencies funded by the Community Services Block Grant Program include: Allegany County Human Resource Development Commission, Inc.; Anne Arundel County Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.; Baltimore City Urban Services Agency; Human Resources Development Agency of Baltimore County, Inc.; Dorchester Community Development Corp.; Frederick Community Center; Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.; Howard County Community Action Council, Inc.; Montgomery County Community

Action Agency; Washington County Community Action Council, Inc.; Shore Up!, Inc.; Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc.; United Communities Against Poverty; Maryland Food Committee; Maryland Rural Development Corp.; and Spanish-Speaking Community of Maryland, Inc.

### SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

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Maryland assumed administration of the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program in 1987. The Program was formerly under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Program funds eligible "nonentitlement" local governments to carry out comprehensive community development activities, including housing, economic development, commercial revitalization, and community infrastructure. The activities either must benefit low- and moderate-income families; help prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or meet urgent local community development needs. Funds for special projects, including imminent threat grants to communities, also are provided by the Program.

The Maryland Program requires all Program activities to further those major federal purposes mentioned above. The federal purposes are refined by the Maryland Program to conform to Maryland's economic and community development priorities. The Program is especially designed to use funds in ways that complement and extend State assistance programs and public-private partnerships.

### WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Formerly under the Department of Human Resources, the Weatherization Assistance Program became part of the Department of Housing and Community Development in 1987 (Senate Bill no. 699). The Program funds local community based service organizations to help low-income, elderly and disabled or handicapped persons conserve energy. The Program contracts with seventeen local