

Authority (MIDFA) (Code 1957, Art. 83A, sec. 2-107).

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT

Robert E. MacDonald, *Director of Marketing*  
333-8184

Formed by the Department in 1988, the Office of International Business Development works with international businesses considering investment in Maryland.

MARYLAND SISTERS PROGRAM

Jean Van Buskirk, *Director*  
333-3072

The Maryland Sisters Program was initiated in 1986. The Program is based on special formal agreements between Maryland and states or provinces in other countries to stimulate the exchange of trade and of cultural, educational and scientific information. Maryland presently has four sister states: Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan; Anhui Province, People's Republic of China; Nord Pas de Calais, France; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, Maryland has special relationships with the Walloon Region in Belgium and the Lodz Region in Poland.

The Program also helps promote Maryland's 29 other sister relationships with counties, cities, and ports in 21 countries abroad.

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY  
EXPORT FINANCE PROGRAM

Marie V. Torres, *Director*  
333-8189

To encourage Maryland businesses to expand their efforts to export Maryland products and services, the Export Finance Program was established under the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority (MIDFA). The Program is designed to provide pre-export working capital and/or financing of shipments abroad. Actual financing is provided by lending institutions, with the Authority serving as an insurer of the obligation.

The Export Finance Program also works with the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Eximbank) to help Maryland businesses obtain financing assistance from Eximbank by packaging Eximbank's Working Capital Guarantee Program applications and obtaining foreign credit risk protection through the Foreign Credit Insurance Association's Umbrella Policy.

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MARYLAND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
FUNDS

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Arthur S. Drea, Jr., *Assistant Secretary for  
Financing Programs*

217 E. Redwood St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202 333-6932

The Assistant Secretary for Financing Programs is responsible for six programs: Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund; Maryland Industrial Land Act Program; Community Development Block Grant Program; Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority; Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority; and Day Care Financing Program.

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL &  
COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT FUND

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL LAND ACT  
PROGRAM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT PROGRAM

James R. Gatto, *Director*  
333-4304

The *Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund (MICRF)* began operations in 1980. To provide supplemental financing that supports local commercial or industrial redevelopment efforts, the Fund administers State loans, grants, and loan guarantees to local governments.

Fund money is used to promote private investment in industrial and commercial redevelopment projects that retain jobs, create new jobs, and increase tax revenues. MICRF funds may be expended directly by a local jurisdiction, or passed through to a third party committed to carrying out the project (Code 1957, Art. 83A, secs. 5-501 through 5-507).

The *Maryland Industrial Land Act (MILA) Program* began in 1972 (Chapter 360, Acts of 1972). The intent of the Program is to ensure appropriate sites for industry throughout the State. The Program may acquire and preserve such sites for the State in partnership with the local government (Code 1957, Art. 83A, secs. 5-401 through 5-414).

Annually, Maryland receives federal funds for the *Community Development Block Grant Program* administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. A certain percentage of those funds is set aside to provide grants to municipalities to assist in economic growth programs with an industrial or commercial focus. That set-aside amount is administered through the Maryland Economic Growth Funds in the Department of Economic and Employment Development.