

propane), wood, and coal to eligible householders statewide. Eligibility for assistance is based on household size, income, fuel type, and geographic location. Those with the greatest need receive the highest level of assistance. Benefits reflect a fixed portion of average fuel consumption based on fuel type. They range from 32 to 85 percent of average consumption. Heating assistance is offered to eligible renters, roomers, boarders, and homeowners. Maryland is the first state to offer this aid to shelters for battered spouses and the homeless.

The Program also offers Emergency Energy Assistance to householders certified eligible for regular MEAP benefits. Provided on a one-time-only basis, this assistance is for fuel deliveries, utility cut-offs, emergency repairs, blankets, emergency space heaters, or emergency shelter. It may not exceed \$180. Benefits provided are paid directly to energy vendors selected by the eligible household. Vendors deliver fuel to a household until the family's benefit amount is exhausted. Vendors who participate in the Program do so under contract with the State.

#### FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

Mary E. Fields, *Director*

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Food and Nutrition Services was organized in 1991 to oversee Emergency Food Assistance and Homeless Services. These programs are aided by the State Advisory Council on Nutrition and the Governor's Advisory Board on Homelessness.

#### STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NUTRITION

David M. Paige, M.D., *Chairperson*, 1991

Staff: Mary E. Fields (410) 767-7835

The State Advisory Council on Nutrition was created by the Governor in 1985 (Executive Order 01.01.1985.35). The Governor reconstituted the Council in January 1988 (Executive Order 01.01.1988.02).

The Council advises the Governor on developing a comprehensive State policy on food and nutrition and coordinating federal, State, local and private programs to prevent malnutrition and poor dietary habits. The Council reviews existing programs to identify deficiencies and promotes a public/private partnership to identify and address the nutritional needs of Marylanders.

The Council's fourteen members are appointed to two-year terms by the Governor. Two represent local government, one represents the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, and five are individuals with interest or expertise in nutritional matters. The Senate President designates a member of the Senate and the House Speaker a member of the House of Delegates as Council members. Four ex officio members include repre-

sentives of the Departments of Human Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Education, and the Office on Aging. Staff is provided by the Department of Human Resources and the State Department of Education.

#### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Melvin Ginsburg, *Administrator*

(410) 767-7213

Emergency Food Assistance began in March 1983 under federal law as the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (P.L. 98-8). The Program formalized the distribution of surplus dairy commodities begun in January 1982. Originally administered by the Food Distribution Section of the State Department of Education, the Program was moved to the Department of Human Resources in January 1988. In 1990, the Program was renamed the Emergency Food Assistance Program in accordance with the federal Food and Agricultural Resources Act of 1990.

Emergency Food Assistance distributes food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to needy people in situations of emergency and distress. To reduce surplus federal commodity inventories, food is delivered quarterly to local emergency organizations for distribution to individuals and to local emergency food pantries. Eligibility for assistance is based on income and household size or prior certification in any of the following programs: Food Stamps; Medical Assistance (Medicaid); Public Assistance; or Maryland Energy Assistance.

#### HOMELESS SERVICES

Harriet Goldman, *Director*

311 West Saratoga St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 767-7219

Within the Community Services Administration, the Governor established the Homeless Services Program in 1984 (Chapter 777, Acts of 1984). The Program provides crisis and transition shelter, food, and services to homeless people (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 131-133). Using federal grants and some State general funds, the Program provides housing counseling and manages aftercare in several jurisdictions. The Program also manages an eviction prevention program.

#### GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON HOMELESSNESS

Jane Harrison, *Chairperson*, 1994

Staff: Marjorie Yoshida-Fiske (410) 767-7182

The Advisory Board of the Shelter, Nutrition, and Services Program for Homeless Individuals was created in 1984 (Chapter 777, Acts of 1984). In 1988, it became known as the Governor's Advisory Board on Homelessness. The Board coordinates the Homeless Services Program.