

the Program offers temporary shelter or help in finding shelter, counseling, information, and referral for the victim; and rehabilitation for the abuser (Code Family Law Article, secs. 4-513 through 4-516).

The *Displaced Homemakers Program* started as a model project in 1976. It became a State program in 1979 (Chapter 339, Acts of 1979). The Program helps homemakers who are displaced due to the death or disability of, or divorce, separation, or abandonment by a family member upon whom they depended for income. Community organizations help them become self-sufficient through counseling, training, and employment assistance (Code Family Law Article, secs. 4-601, 4-602).

Established in 1983, the *Rape Crisis Program* gives specialized support to victims of rape and sexual assault. Community organizations provide telephone hotlines, counseling, and medical and legal help.

The *Homeless Women's Shelter Program* began in 1980 with legislation to establish a model crisis shelter for homeless women. For them, the Program provides temporary housing. Clients are counseled on ways to set personal goals and overcome obstacles to employment, such as illiteracy, health problems, or substance abuse.

The *Transitional Housing Program* was created in 1986 with three pilot projects, consisting of small multifamily residences providing supervision and on-site support. Homeless single mothers and their children stay for up to eighteen months while the women obtain the education and skills needed to become self-sufficient.

The *Crime Victims Program* provides specialized crisis services to adult and child victims of abuse, domestic violence, rape, or sexual assault; elderly victims of crime; and dependents of homicide victims. Using federal funds from Victims of Crime Assistance, services are provided through contracts with community organizations.

#### MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Betty McGarvie Crowley, *Chair*, 1997

Joanne M. Saltzberg, *Executive Director*

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The Maryland Commission for Women started in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. To examine pressing social problems and foster an understanding of issues affecting women, the Commission was reactivated in 1968 as the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. The Governor directed the Commission to review the previous Commission's recommendations on education, employment, and community and civic participation, and to implement those most pertinent. The Commission also helped State

and local organizations identify problems and improve opportunities for women in a variety of fields. In 1971, the Commission became part of the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 57, Acts of 1971). The Commission adopted its present name in 1976 (Chapter 119, Acts of 1976).

The Commission promotes the study and review of the status of women in the State. To strengthen home life, it directs attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and employees. The Commission recommends ways to overcome discrimination in public and private employment and encourages women to become candidates for public office. In addition, the Commission promotes ways for women to develop skills, continue education, and secure retraining.

The Governor appoints the Commission's twenty-four members to four-year terms (Code 1957, Art. 49C, secs. 1-8).

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### FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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Functions of the Family Investment Administration began within the Social Services Administration. In 1980, those duties were assigned to the Income Maintenance Administration first by Executive Order and then by law (Chapter 26, Acts of 1980). In 1996, the Administration was reformed under its present name (Chapter 351, Acts of 1996).

The Family Investment Administration coordinates and supervises all public assistance programs in the State (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 1A). These programs include Family Investment, Food Stamps, and Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Under an agreement with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Administration certifies eligible low-income families for the *Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)*. In accord with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Administration also directs the *Food Stamps Program*.

The Administration sets policy for local departments of social services to follow in determining eligibility for financial assistance, Food Stamps, and Medical Assistance. In Baltimore City and in each county, the local director of social services administers public assistance programs subject to the supervision, direction, and control of the Family Investment Administration.

The Executive Director of Family Investment is appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources