

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

SERVICES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

121.

(A) IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND TO PROMOTE FAMILY STABILITY, TO PRESERVE FAMILY UNITY, AND TO HELP FAMILIES ACHIEVE OR MAINTAIN SELF-RELIANCE BY RESPONDING TO FINANCIAL AND FAMILY CRISIS THROUGH THE DIRECT PROVISION OF FAMILY COUNSELING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND BY REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

(B) FURTHER, THE STATE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES WHICH PREVENT THE KIND OF FAMILY DISSOLUTION AND BREAKDOWN WHICH REQUIRES PROTECTIVE SERVICES OR OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS.

(C) TO IMPLEMENT THESE POLICIES THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF SERVICES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN ALL LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE FAMILIES RECEIVING AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC), SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) OR TO THOSE FAMILIES WHOSE GROSS INCOME IS NO MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE STATE'S MEDIAN INCOME, ADJUSTED FOR FAMILY SIZE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS TO BE ADOPTED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

122.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, SERVICES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE:

(1) FUNCTIONAL SERVICES TO ASSIST A FAMILY RESOLVE A SITUATIONAL CRISIS BROUGHT ON BY CATASTROPHE, DEPRIVATION OF INCOME, LACK OF SHELTER, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ILLNESS, DEATH, DESERTION OR ABANDONMENT;

~~(2) FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES;~~

~~(3)~~ (2) FAMILY COUNSELING TO RESOLVE MARITAL CONFLICT, INTERFAMILIAL CONFLICT, PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS, AND TO TEACH CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT AND PARENTING SKILLS;

~~(4)~~ (3) INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO TEACH FAMILIES HOW TO LOCATE AND UTILIZE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES; AND

~~(5)~~ (4) HOME MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO TEACH THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING BUDGETING SKILLS.