

(a) The Director of the Office on Aging is hereby authorized and directed to develop rules and regulations to carry out the intent of this Act, and to promulgate them after they have been approved by the Board of Public Works.

(b) Any local governmental agency may apply to the Office on Aging for a State grant to be applied toward the cost of converting a surplus school building or other public building or a part thereof to an Elderly Citizen Activities Center, and in Howard County, toward the cost of designing, planning, constructing, and equipping of a new building for use as an elderly citizen activities center. The allocation and use of State funds under this Act shall be governed by and subject to the following stipulations and limitations:

(i) State funds may be used only for the following eligible work: preparation of plans and specifications, site improvements, the conversion of surplus public school buildings or other public buildings or parts of the building to Elderly Citizen Activities Centers and, in Howard County, for the design, planning, construction, and equipping of new buildings for use as Elderly Citizen Activities Centers, contingent on certification to the Board of Public Works by the Local Government and the Office [of] ON Aging that no surplus school or other public building appropriate for use as an Elderly Citizen Activities Center exists in the area where it is desired to locate a center, and providing for capital equipment for these centers to serve the needs of elderly citizens. State grants may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of eligible work, and no State grant may exceed \$200,000. At the discretion of the Board of Public Works, a grant may cover more than 50 percent of the cost of eligible work, provided that:

(1) The value of property and improvements made available by the County equals or exceeds the amount of the State grant;

(2) No State funds have been used for the acquisition, construction, or maintenance of the public building to be converted; and

(3) The State is not responsible for any bonded indebtedness in connection with the building. In no case shall the State grant exceed \$200,000.

(ii) Any Federal grant which may be available for this purpose shall be applied first to the cost of converting and equipping an Elderly Citizen Activities Center. State grants shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of eligible work remaining unpaid after any Federal grant has been applied.