

(ii) Central: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City; and

(iii) Eastern: Harford, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties.

(3) Each center shall utilize the expertise of faculty members and staff, public officials, and private resources to provide extension services to small businesses within its designated region.

(4) The director shall coordinate with the officials of each designated institution to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle.

(c) The Office shall provide assistance to small businesses, either directly or through the centers, including:

(1) Operation of an information exchange covering current and new technical information and data concerning business investment and marketing trends in this State, management techniques, technological assistance, administrative methods, production techniques, product developments, federal and State legislation and regulations affecting small business, and any other news or information helpful to small businesses; and

(2) Individual consultation and technical assistance to any small business that requests the service. The consultation and assistance may include information concerning procurement of investment capital, management, administration, production, product marketing, compliance with governmental regulations, and business expansion, renovation, and diversification.]

[266FF-3.

(a) The director shall coordinate with federal, State, and local agencies and private organizations to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle, avoid a duplication of services, and solicit and obtain cooperation and any available funds or grants to aid small businesses in this State.

(b) Whenever possible, the director shall utilize the services of existing governmental, educational, business, industrial, and financial institutions and their personnel on a voluntary basis. Any person who, at the request of the director, provides voluntary assistance to the Maryland Office of Small Business Assistance shall be reimbursed for travel costs and other reasonable and necessary expenses.

(c) The director may procure the temporary or intermittent services of organizations, experts, and consultants on a contractual basis.