

(b) (1) In any case where only 1 secondary contractor is selected, the secondary contractor may not receive less than 5 percent of the total funds available.

(2) The secondary contractor is not entitled to any of the funds allocated to the primary contractor in the region.

(c) Any additional funds available to the Program shall be distributed according to the regulations in effect for the federal Small Business Development Center Program.

(d) In the event that no primary contractor is selected for a region, the region shall receive not less than 8 percent of the total funds available to the Program.

(e) (1) The Secretary shall appoint a board of 17 members to advise the Secretary.

(2) The board shall consist of the following representatives and represent all regions under subsection (a) of this section:

(i) 3 representatives of the Department;

(ii) 1 representative from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce who owns a small business, as defined under this subtitle;

(iii) 1 representative of the National Federation of Independent Business, who shall reside in Maryland and who shall own a small business;

(iv) 1 representative of the federal Small Business Administration;

(v) 1 representative from a local chamber of commerce in each region, who owns a small business;

(vi) 3 owners of small businesses from the State at large who shall reside in Maryland; and

(vii) 2 representatives of local government.

(3) The Secretary shall designate a chairperson from among the members.

(4) The advisory board shall:

(i) Identify issues and concerns of small businesses;

(ii) Advise the Department AND THE COMMISSION on problems affecting small businesses;

(iii) Serve as a general advocate for small businesses; and

(iv) Review the progress and effectiveness of each center's program and make recommendations on the criteria and selection of contractors.

(5) Each member of the advisory board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations.

(f) The Department shall provide assistance to small businesses, including: