

(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 procurement of investment capital, management, administration, production, product marketing, compliance with governmental regulations, and business expansion, renovation, and diversification.

[5-203.] 3-503.

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

(d) The Secretary shall make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, relating to the operation of the program, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, including suggested legislation.

SUBTITLE 6. ~~WORKPLACE TRAINING PROGRAM~~ COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS.

3-601.

~~(A) WORKPLACE TRAINING FUNDS INCLUDE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE TO ASSIST BUSINESSES WITH APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER TRAINING ACTIVITIES.~~

~~(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKPLACE TRAINING FUNDS TO ASSIST BUSINESSES WITH APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING NEEDS.~~

~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY UTILIZE WORKPLACE TRAINING FUNDS TO MAKE GRANTS OR PROCURE GOODS AND SERVICES TO PROMOTE THE ATTRACTION, CREATION, EXPANSION, AND RETENTION OF BUSINESSES IN THE STATE.~~