

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 88A - Social Services Administration**

**STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

130A.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "APPLICANT" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT APPLIES FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

(D) "DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION" MEANS A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT DISTRIBUTES FOOD OR EQUIPMENT TO FEEDING SITES.

(E) (1) "FEEDING SITE" MEANS A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT PROVIDES EMERGENCY FEEDING SERVICES.

(2) "FEEDING SITE" INCLUDES A SOUP KITCHEN OR A FOOD PANTRY.

(F) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

130B.

(A) THERE IS A STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATIONS TO ENABLE THE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FEEDING SITES TO OBTAIN NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

130C.

(A) IN THE COURSE OF REVIEWING AND AWARDING GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER:

(1) THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS ACROSS ALL GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF THE STATE;

(2) THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION SERVED OR INTENDED TO BE SERVED BY THE APPLICANT;

(3) THE ESTIMATED POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY THE APPLICANT;

(4) THE APPLICANT'S LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING A DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION; AND

(5) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT.