

(5) "Hiring agreement" means an agreement entered into by the Department or a local department and an entity doing business with the State under which the Department or the local department and the entity agree to work cooperatively in endeavoring to identify and hire FIP recipients to fill [entry-level] job openings of the entity.

(6) "Local department" means a local department of social services in a county or in Baltimore City created or continued under the provisions of Article 88A, § 13 of the Code.

(b) On or before October 1, 1998, the Board, in consultation with the Department, shall designate the types of procurement contracts that are eligible contracts.

(c) (1) On or before December 1, 1998, the Department shall develop a model hiring agreement form that shall be completed by the Department or a local department and an entity in conjunction with the award of an eligible contract.

(2) The model hiring agreement form shall include the following provisions:

(i) the entity will:

1. inform the Department or the local department, as appropriate, of all of the entity's [entry-level] job openings;

2. declare the Department or the local department, as appropriate, its "first source" in identifying and hiring candidates to fill those [entry-level] job openings;

3. work cooperatively with the Department or the local department, as appropriate, to develop any necessary training programs that will enable FIP recipients in qualifying for and securing the [entry-level] positions;

4. give first preference and first consideration to the extent permitted by law and any existing labor agreements to candidates referred to the entity by the Department or the local department, as appropriate;

5. agree to give candidates referred to the entity by the Department or the local department, as appropriate, priority in the filling of [an entry-level] A JOB opening if the candidate meets the qualifications of the position;

6. provide the Department or the local department, as appropriate, with information on the disposition of all referrals made by the Department or the local department, as appropriate, including an explanation of why any such candidate was not hired or considered qualified;

7. provide the Department or the local department, as appropriate, with information regarding the progress and employment status of those candidates referred by the Department or the local department, as appropriate, that the entity hired; and