

~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS WHO LACK PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE BY ACCESSING MEDICALLY NECESSARY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THROUGH PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS.~~

~~(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED AND OPERATED BY THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(2) (1) THE FOUNDATION MAY SHALL CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ENTITIES TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(4) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE FOUNDATION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO ANY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR AREA AGENCY ON AGING WHEN SELECTING ENTITIES TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(D) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE BUDGET IN AN AMOUNT NOT MORE THAN \$2 MILLION ANNUALLY.~~

~~(2) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED TO ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE PROGRAM MAY NOT EXCEED 10 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT THAT IS ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~(3) (3) PROGRAM FUNDS SHALL BE USED IN PART TO PURCHASE INTERIM SUPPLIES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR PROGRAM ENROLLEES WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MANUFACTURER'S PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUT HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE APPROVED PRESCRIPTION DRUG.~~

~~(E) (1) THE FOUNDATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS IN EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF THE STATE. EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE:~~

~~(I) WESTERN MARYLAND;~~

~~(II) THE EASTERN SHORE;~~

~~(III) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA;~~

~~(IV) THE MARYLAND COUNTIES IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA; AND~~

~~(V) SOUTHERN MARYLAND, INCLUDING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.~~

~~(2) THE FOUNDATION SHALL USE THE MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC. AND THE WESTERN MARYLAND PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM AS THE REGIONAL OFFICES FOR THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA AND WESTERN MARYLAND RESPECTIVELY.~~