

THE OFFICE SHALL:

(1) COLLECT AND ASSEMBLE INFORMATION RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER UNITS OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS;

(2) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO FURTHER ENERGY ASSISTANCE;

(3) IDENTIFY ALL UTILITY VENDORS AND MAJOR FUEL VENDORS IN THE STATE AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEIR VOLUNTARY COOPERATION WITH THE PROGRAM;

(4) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A STATE INFORMATION SERVICE THAT UTILIZES A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND THE LOCATION OF THE NEAREST LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE OFFICE; AND

(5) ESTABLISH A MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM TO DETERMINE WHETHER ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS ARE AWARE OF AND HAVE ACCESS TO A LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE OFFICE.

(C) CONTRACTUAL AUTHORITY.

(1) CONSISTENT WITH THIS SUBTITLE AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS, THE OFFICE MAY ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR ASSUME ANY OTHER FUNCTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE OFFICE MAY ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR ANY STUDY OR RESEARCH ACTIVITY THAT IS NECESSARY AND PROPER.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 41, § 6-405(a), (b), and (d).

In subsection (a)(1)(ii) and (v) of this section, the references to "local government" units and "local" units are substituted for the former references to "Maryland county and city" offices and "agencies of ... county and municipal governments" for brevity.

Also in subsection (a)(1)(ii) and (v) of this section, the reference to "units" is substituted for the former references to "offices" and "agencies", respectively, for consistency with terminology used throughout this article. See General Revisor's Note to article.

In subsection (a)(2)(i) of this section, the reference to the "local entities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection" is substituted for the former reference to "these local groups" for clarity.

In subsection (a)(2)(iii) of this section, the reference to "consulting with" vendors is substituted for the former reference to "seeking their advice" for brevity.

In the introductory language of subsection (b) of this section, the reference to "adopt[ing] the following information collection and dissemination