

## DIVISION OF RESEARCH

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The Division of Research was created to provide analytical support for economic policy-making and development planning. It also collects and maintains a data base for the research needs of the Department, other government agencies, and the private sector. This data base is continuously refined and is currently being automated. The Division is responsible for various ad hoc research projects of the Department and for representing the Department on numerous statewide committees and task forces, in addition to preparing and, in some cases, presenting testimony on behalf of the Department.

The Office of Project and Sector Studies is primarily responsible for producing an annual analysis of the performance of the State economy. This study is concerned with the behavior and interrelationships among major economic data series over time such as employment by industry, by skill, and by sub-State region. The main purpose of this effort is to provide quantitative and analytical bases for economic policy-making and development planning. The results and recommendations of this analysis are presented each spring in a report on the preceding year. This Office is also responsible for responding to the research needs of the other Divisions in the Department. Analyses of specific aspects of the State economy are conducted, the approach being primarily micro in character. The purpose of these studies is to provide a sound basis for industrial and community development planning.

The Power Plant Siting and Research Program directs the Department's Research Division to cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources in a program that includes, among other things, provisions for estimating and monitoring the economic effects of operating electric power facilities in the State.

The Office of Statistical Information Services is primarily responsible for gathering and compiling technical information. It functions as an information center for economic and statistical data and serves as a major contact point between the State Government and the sources of such data, which include the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Districts, trade associations, non-profit organizations, and various State and local organizations. The Office converts basic information into compilations specifically designed for business, industry, and the general public, and prepares monthly a series of economic indicators, as well as a short appraisal of the economic situation in Maryland for the Office of the Governor.

## DIVISION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The Division of Local and Regional Development was established in July 1976 to provide more effective management and coordination of the Department's assistance to local governments and regional organizations in their efforts to develop and implement economic development, housing, and historical-cultural programs. In cooperation with local officials, the Division also provides training and management systems assistance aimed at strengthening the management capacity of local units of government.

In providing assistance, the Division places primary emphasis on those local or regional programs for which the Department can deliver specific resources and/or on programs for which the Department is capable of obtaining or coordinating use of related State and federal resources.

The Division helps local and regional officials identify development problems or issues, assess alternative courses of action, design specific action programs, and obtain Department, other State, and federal resources useful in implementing development programs.

As a clearinghouse for Departmental services to sub-State units of government, the Division coordinates State and local involvement with a number of federal programs related to economic development, housing, and historical-cultural matters.