

The goal of the Authority is to construct a modern, efficient food distribution center capable of satisfying most of the wholesale food requirements of the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. This endeavor is based on the recommendations made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after a two year investigation of the antiquated, inefficient, and unsanitary markets in Baltimore. Maryland was the third area in the world, following Paris and Philadelphia, to undertake such a development. This concept is now being followed by most of the world's large metropolitan areas.

The Authority is developing a 398-acre site at the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Maryland Route 175 in Howard County near Jessup for the establishment of the Maryland Wholesale Food Center. The Center will be able to provide better quality food products to Maryland consumers more efficiently and at less cost than possible prior to the establishment of a consolidated food center. As of June 30, 1978, approximately 1,380,000 square feet of food warehousing space has been completed or is under construction within the Food Center at an estimated cost of \$37 million. Furthermore, the Authority has signed commitments for construction of an additional 533,000 square feet of food warehousing space. Of 330 saleable acres, approximately 165 acres have been sold or leased as of June 30, 1978. It is estimated that approximately \$100 million will be invested in food distribution facilities by the completion of the project.

The State's total investment of \$9 million will be completely repaid over a period of years. The original Act provided an initial loan of \$4 million in State general obligation bonds for land acquisition and development. An additional \$5 million loan for Produce Market construction was provided by Chapter 409, Acts of 1969.

The original Act permitted the Authority to issue \$6 million in negotiable revenue bonds. As of June 30, 1978, \$2 million has been privately sold, with \$1 million being purchased by the Equitable Trust Company in order to finance a portion of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market. The revenue bonds sold are structured in such a manner as not to be a direct encumbrance on Authority revenues.

During Fiscal Year 1979 the Authority will complete roadways and utilities to serve the Phase III area of the project, which is the only remaining undeveloped portion. In January 1976 the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market began operations. This facility, containing 204,500

square feet, is fully leased and has twenty-four produce merchant tenants who were formerly in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Plans are now being prepared for an approximate 86,000 square foot addition to the Market at an estimated cost of \$2.25 million dollars, which will be partially financed by the sale of \$1.5 million in Authority Revenue Bonds. The satisfactory outcome of construction of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market, combined with the previous separate land sales to Giant Food, Inc., Distribution Centers, Inc., Smelkinson Brothers Corporation, American Foodservices, Albright Wholesale, The Equitable Trust Company, and The Truckers Inn assures the operational and financial success of the Maryland Wholesale Food Center (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 410, 412, 413, 416).

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Wor-Wic Tech Community College is a public two-year institution established by the State Board for Community Colleges in 1975 with the prior approval of both county governments as a vocational-technical community college "without