

ed. 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 studying the performance of the State economy. Such work is concerned with the behavior and relationships between major elements of the State's economy, concentrating on changes 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. 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 and State economic policy are conducted in order to provide a sound basis for State actions aimed at strengthening the economy and for industrial and community development planning.

The Power Plant Siting and Research Program, housed in the Department of Natural Resources, directs the DECD 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 a statewide information center for economic and statistical data on Maryland 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 a monthly series of economic indicators.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

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The Office of Development Planning (ODP) was created by the Governor in May 1974 and attached to the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Funded largely through federal grants, ODP is responsible for creating an economic development planning process to allocate public and private resources for the well-being of the citizens of Maryland. The Office examines selected issues that might have a significant impact on statewide economic development and proposes substantive programs related to these issues; provides development planning assistance to local governments and regional organizations; facilitates coordination among local, State, regional, and federal authorities on economic development issues affecting the State; and assists regional and local organizations in establishing their own economic development processes.