

OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

Jonathan Herz, *Manager*

514-7236

The Office of Special Projects originated as the Office of Housing Assistance, was renamed the Office of Housing Development Assistance in 1990, and received its present name in 1991.

With both financial and technical assistance, the Office of Special Projects helps nonprofit organizations and local governments develop and manage housing projects and programs for low-income persons. Among its programs are the *Maryland Appalachian Housing Fund*, the *Housing Development Assistance Program*, and the *Maryland Capacity Assistance Program*.

To keep local governments and other providers of housing informed about housing matters, the Office publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, *Talk About Housing*. The Office also sponsors training on housing development and other housing issues.

OFFICE OF WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

Cheryl D. Lockhart, *Manager*

514-7239

The Office of Weatherization Assistance administers the Weatherization Assistance Program. Formerly under the Department of Human Resources, the Program became part of the Department of Housing and Community Development in 1987 (Chapter 311, Acts of 1987). The Program funds local, community-based service organizations to help low-income, elderly, and disabled or handicapped persons conserve energy. The Program contracts with seventeen local administering agencies (county governments, community action agencies, offices on aging, and nonprofit organizations) to provide weatherization assistance.

For eligible low-income households, the Program provides up to \$1,000 in weatherization materials installed free of charge by certified workers. Eligibility for assistance is determined by family size and income. The major energy conservation measures include insulation, storm windows, weatherstripping, caulking, hot water heater jackets, pipe insulation, and clock thermostats. Recipients stay warmer while spending less money on fuel. The Program promotes community awareness of energy conservation, provides jobs, and stimulates the weatherization industry.

COMMERCIAL & GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Tara Clifford, *Acting Director*

100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032

514-7267

Commercial and Government Assistance Programs is responsible for three offices: Commer-

cial Revitalization; Local Government Technical Assistance; and Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION  
(MARTLAND MAIN STREET CENTER)

Tara Clifford, *Manager*

514-7260

The Office of Commercial Revitalization provides community assistance for commercial revitalization through the *Maryland Main Street Center*. The Center offers planning, architectural and financial assistance to communities interested in revitalizing their downtown areas.

The *Commercial District Management Authority Grant Program*, administered by the Office, provides financial assistance to local governments and merchant associations that wish to establish downtown management authorities. The Office also administers the *State Action Loan for Targeted Areas Program* which offers gap financing for commercial and residential projects in targeted areas of communities throughout the State. The *Main Street Improvement Program* provides matching grants to local governments and revitalization organizations to stabilize traditional downtowns and neighborhood commercial areas. The Office coordinates the interagency *Main Street Designation Program*, which recognizes and rewards communities that are committed to preserving the vitality of their downtown and business districts.

OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

David A. Schultz, *Manager*

514-7250

The Office of Local Government Technical Assistance administers the *Maryland Town Manager Circuit Rider Grant Program*. Through this program, professional managers serve several small communities at once, thereby providing these towns with an increased capability to meet their citizens' needs. The Office also is responsible for the *Rural Development Program*; the Joint Funding Committee, which identifies housing and community development needs and coordinates federal and State resources to meet those needs; and the *Small Urban Waterfront Development Program*, which addresses the needs of small waterfront communities by coordinating State and federal resources for community development. In addition, the Office carries out responsibilities related to implementation of the infrastructure finance loan program and assists local communities by providing financial management technical assistance.

The *Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program* was created by the General Assembly in 1985 and began operation in 1987. The Program