
PROGRAMS

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The Deputy Secretary for Programs oversees the major programs of the Department. In conjunction with local departments of social services, these programs are carried out by five administrations: Social Services; Income Maintenance; Community Services; Child Support Enforcement; and Child Care.

SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Diane W. Gordy, *State Director of Social Services*
Yvonne Gilchrist, *Deputy Director*

311 West Saratoga St.
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The Social Services Administration originated as the Board of State Aid and Charities in 1900 (Chapter 679, Acts of 1900). In 1939, the Board was replaced by the State Department of Public Welfare (Chapter 99, Acts of 1939). The Department was renamed the State Department of Social Services in 1968 (Chapter 702, Acts of 1968). In 1970, it became the Social Services Administration (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970).

The Social Services Administration coordinates and directs all social services in the State (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 6-106). These include adoption, foster care, protective services to children and families, and services to families with children.

The Social Services Administration develops and coordinates services, determines what factors contribute to social and family problems, and recommends ways to address those problems. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Administration calls upon local departments of social services for leadership within their communities and for participation in statewide programs. Baltimore City and each county have a local department of social services. The director of the local department administers social services locally subject to the supervision, direction, and control of the Social Services Administration.

The Social Services Administration supervises all public and private institutions that have the care, custody, or control of dependent, abandoned or neglected children, except those placed under supervision of another agency. It licenses agencies and institutions having the care and custody of minors.

The State Director of Social Services is appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources with the Governor's approval (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 2).

In each county, the local department of social services has a nine-member board of social services.

Board members are appointed to three-year terms by the local governing authority. One member is a member of the local governing body, designated to serve ex officio. In Baltimore City, the board is called the social services commission. The Mayor appoints its members to six-year terms. The Mayor and the Commissioner of Health serve ex officio (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 1, 2, 4, 14, 14A).

The Social Services Administration is organized into the Special Projects Division and five offices: Family and Children's Services; Federal Funding Initiatives; Program Review and Monitoring; Executive Management and Support Services; and Child Placement Resources.

OFFICE OF FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Linda M. Heisner, *Director*
(410) 767-7026

The Office of Family and Children's Services originated as the Office of Family and Child Development Services in 1980 and was reorganized under its present name in 1991.

The Office sets policy and standards for four programs: Child Protective Services, Family Services, Foster Care, and Adoption. The Office also is responsible for Maryland's part in the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, the Maryland Adoption Resource Exchange, and the Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry.

OFFICE OF FEDERAL FUNDING INITIATIVES

Margaret J. Sisk, *Director*
(410) 767-7287

Functions of the Office of Federal Funding Initiatives date to the 1930s when the federal government first contributed to the funding of State social welfare programs. In 1991, the Office of Federal Program Reimbursement was created. Later that year, it was renamed the Office of Federal Funding Initiatives. The Office is responsible for three programs: Emergency Services to Families with Children (Title IV-A); (Title IV-E); and Supplemental Security Income for Foster Care Children (Title XIII).

Under Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act, the federal government pays 50 percent of the administrative costs for child welfare programs to alleviate abuse, neglect, or abandonment, or the threat of those conditions, and pays for the first six months of foster care for children removed from their homes due to such conditions. Title IV-E provides federal funds for 50 percent of administrative costs and maintenance payments for foster care and adoptive children who meet federal income requirements and removal criteria. Disabled or functionally delayed children in State foster care or adoption programs are screened to determine their eligibility for Supplementary Security Income under Title XIII of the federal Social Security Act.