

(5) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource library for information about minority health and health disparities data, strategies, services, and programs that address minority health and health disparities issues;

(6) Develop a strategic plan to improve public services and programs targeting minorities;

(7) Obtain funding and, contingent upon funding, provide grants to community-based organizations and historically black colleges and universities to conduct special research, demonstration, and evaluation projects for targeted at-risk racial and ethnic minority populations and to support ongoing community-based programs that are designed to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the State;

(8) Develop criteria for the awarding of grants for programs that are designed to improve minority health care;

(9) Review existing laws and regulations to ensure that they facilitate the provision of adequate health care to the minorities of this State;

(10) Recommend to the Secretary any additions or changes to existing laws and regulations designed to facilitate the adequate provision of health care to minorities in this State;

(11) Identify and review health promotion and disease prevention strategies relating to the leading health causes of death and disability among minority populations;

(12) Develop and implement model public and private partnerships in racial and ethnic minority communities for health awareness campaigns and to improve the access, acceptability, and use of public health services;

(13) Develop recommendations for the most effective means of providing outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities throughout the State to ensure their maximum participation in publicly funded health benefits programs;

(14) Develop a statewide plan for increasing the number of racial and ethnic minority health care professionals which includes recommendations for the financing mechanisms and recruitment strategies necessary to carry out the plan;

(15) Work collaboratively with universities and colleges of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry in this State and other health care professional training programs to develop courses with cultural competency, sensitivity, and health literacy, that are designed to address the problem of racial and ethnic disparities in health care access, utilization, treatment decisions, quality, and outcomes;

(16) Work collaboratively with the Maryland Health Care Disparities Initiative, the Morgan-Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, the University of Maryland Disparity Project, the Monumental City Medical Society,