

# JOB CENTER

“INVESTING IN MARYLAND’S FUTURE”

## Summary

Anne Arundel County was selected by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services as one of eight demonstration sites nationwide to test locally developed strategies to change the culture of welfare.

The federal grant for \$50,000 helped our agency establish a full-service Job Center at our Annapolis office. The Center opened in February 1996. In April 1997, the agency opened a second Job Center in its Glen Burnie office. The Centers provide the following services on the very first day a person appears at the agency:

- ◆ Immediate, assisted job search and job readiness services (such as practice job interviews, career clothing, and access to and assistance with phones and computer equipment).
- ◆ Immediate access to child support services (such as initial filing for support, paternity establishment and court order modifications).
- ◆ Immediate assistance with child care on-site at the agency’s Family Support Center for parents who bring their young children with them to the Annapolis Job Center.
- ◆ Immediate assistance with child care vouchers and location of private sector child care providers.
- ◆ Immediate assistance with transportation stipends, and transportation vouchers for the **AdVANTage** program (beginning January 1998), and consideration for a low-cost vehicle purchase program, **Wheels for Work**.
- ◆ Immediate access to free adult basic education, GED preparation, English as a second language, and computer training programs on-site in the agency’s Learning Center.
- ◆ Only as a last resort are work-ready individuals considered for cash grants.

Since September 1995, when the County began requiring cash assistance applicants to search for work, more than 1,790 customers have found jobs.

The Job Centers are available for use by any resident of Anne Arundel County who is looking for a job. During October 1997, for example, 1,922 County residents used the Job Centers and fewer than 200 of them applied for cash assistance.

The Job Centers are open 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

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***Equal Opportunity Employer***