Educational materials were developed through the Making Master Teachers in Howard County Program, a partnership between the Howard County Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Resource Sheet#7

Document F-*Maryland Council of Defense on Child Care Provisions*

> Through mutual agreement…it has been decided that (the Maryland State Department of Education, Health, and Welfare) will be responsible for the administration of a coordinated child care program for the State of Maryland in order to meet the needs of children whose mothers are employed in war industries or who are engaged in war effort activities which take them out of the home during the hours when children require care…. To assist in planning and coordination on the state level, the State Committee will include representation from W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) and the Employment Service and such other representatives from agencies as deemed advisable as well as the above name State Department.

Source: Patterson, J. M. (January 1943). Maryland state program for care of children of working mothers. In *Maryland Council of Defense* (pp. 1-7).

Background Information

The Maryland Council of Defense was created not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor to better address the mobilization effort for World War II. The issue of providing child care for working mothers was addressed by the Maryland State Department of Education, Health, and Welfare in addition to federal assistance through the Works Progress Administration. In Maryland, child care services provided by the state and local governments included afterschool care, nutrition, and health services. The federal Works Progress Administration provided care to Maryland children from two to five years of age using funds provided through the Lanham Act.

Guiding Questions:

1. What service is the state of Maryland willing to provide for mothers employed in wartime industries?

2. How well did Maryland value working mothers during World War II?