

CHAPTER III
REGIONS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Section 1. Division of the State into Regions.

(a) The Division shall divide the state into regions for the maintenance, operation, and delivery of comprehensive community services. The Division shall take into consideration at least the following factors to establish realistic and appropriately defined geographic areas:

- (i) Physical geographic characteristics and barriers;
- (ii) Population base;
- (iii) Service needs of population;
- (iv) Presently existing services available;
- (v) County or multi-county organization and support;
- (vi) Accessibility to services;
- (vii) Residential patterns;
- (viii) Economic and social groupings; and
- (ix) Available transportation systems.

(b) Regions proposed by the Division shall be presented in the Division's biennial budget request to the legislature. After the region is approved by the legislature through approval of the biennial budget, the region shall remain in effect until the legislature revises the region in the Division's budget.

Section 2. Other Proposed Revisions of Regions.

(a) Persons or programs who wish a revision of the existing regions of service delivery shall submit a request in writing to the Administrator. The request shall:

- (i) Specify the proposed revision of boundaries of the region; and
- (ii) Justify the reason for the proposed change in boundaries.

(b) Upon receipt of the request, the Administrator shall within a reasonable period determine what the fiscal impact to the state would be by the proposed revision of the service delivery regions, what effect the proposed revision would have on other programs funded by the Division, and review the effect on the regional criteria established in Chapter II, Section 1,a. The Administrator shall forward his determinations and recommendations to the person or program which submitted the proposed revision.

(c) If a program wishes to be excluded from an existing region and advises the Administrator that it does not want to contract with the Division for funding programs, the program shall follow the

procedure set forth in paragraph (a) of this section. The Administrator shall thereupon follow the procedure in paragraph (b) and (d) of this section.

(d) The Administrator shall approve or disapprove the proposed revision. If approved, the Administrator shall include the revision in the Division budget request as outlined in Section 1(b) of this chapter, and include also the fiscal impact statement as prepared pursuant to Section 2(b) of this chapter.