



CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING

RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

RESOURCES FOR REVITALIZING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: GUIDE TO THE AGENCIES

The Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) is the leading national nonprofit dedicated to transforming communities through land recycling. This means converting abandoned or vacant commercial or industrial properties to assets that benefit the community, create jobs and generate new tax revenues. We help transformations happen by educating and convening communities, government agencies and the private sector to create optimal conditions for reinvestment.

For more information on this Guide or to learn how CCLR can support your community, please contact Jean Hamerman at jean.hamerman@cclr.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)	3
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)	5
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) - OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS	6
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)	8

VIRGIN ISLANDS AGENCIES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (VIDE)	10
VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (VIDOL)	12
VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DPNR)	13
VIRGIN ISLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (VIEDA)	15
VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY (VIFHA) - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)	16

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The USDA provides leadership in areas of food production, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues through developed public policy, the best available science, and effective management. USDA's vision is to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture and food production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve the Nation's natural resources through conservation, restoration of forests, improvement of watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Farm Loans: USDA's Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

Housing Assistance: USDA provides homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income rural Americans through several loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs. The programs also make funding available to individuals to finance vital improvements necessary to make their homes decent, safe, and sanitary. USDA Multi-Family Housing Programs offer Rural Rental Housing Loans to provide affordable multi-family rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families; the elderly; and persons with disabilities. In addition, rental assistance is available to eligible families.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/multi-family-housing-programs>

Rural Development Loan and Grant Assistance: USDA Rural Development forges partnerships with rural communities, funding projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities and other services to rural America. USDA provides technical assistance and financial backing for rural businesses and cooperatives to create quality jobs in rural areas. Rural Development promotes the President's National Energy Policy and ultimately the nation's energy security by engaging the entrepreneurial

spirit of rural America in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements. Rural Development works with low-income individuals, State, local and Indian tribal governments, as well as private and nonprofit organizations and user-owned cooperatives.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs>

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: USDA, through the Farm Service Agency, provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index>

Livestock Insurance: USDA helps producers manage their business risks. The mission of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is to promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers. As part of this mission, RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). RMA has three divisions: Insurance Services, Product Management, and Risk Compliance. Seventeen private-sector insurance companies sell and service the policies. RMA develops and/or approves the premium rate, administers premium and expense subsidies, approves and supports products, and reinsures the companies. RMA also sponsors educational and outreach programs and seminars on the general topic of risk.

<https://legacy.rma.usda.gov/livestock/>

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program: This matching grant program, also known as FSMIP, provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip>

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: The SCBGP funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp>

The Farmers Market Promotion Program: The FMPP was created through a recent amendment of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976. The grants, authorized by the FMPP, are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Organic Cost Share Program: AMS administers two organic certification cost share programs. Each program provides cost share assistance, through participating States, to organic producers and/or organic handlers. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent (ACA).

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Department of Agriculture Website:

<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda>

St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands Office Contact Information: (340) 773-9146,

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/vi>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program: leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private

developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by redeveloping severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services and schools.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy19cnpg

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program: to maximize the number of children under the age of six years protected from lead poisoning by assisting states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing populations.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy19_lead_hazardreductiongrant

FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Website:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Grants Programs:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SPM/documents/EligibilityRequirementsGrantProgramsFiscalYear2020.pdf>

General Administration Requirements and Terms for HUD Financial Assistance Awards:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SPM/documents/FY2020GeneralAdministrationRequirementsandTermsforHUDAssistanceAwards_v2.pdf

HUD Virgin Islands Contact Information: Janine Hector, (340) 772-3180, jhector@vihfa.gov

https://www.hud.gov/states/puerto_rico_virgin_islands/community/vi-home

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) - OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

The DOI conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust

responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act: funds available for the territories and the freely associated states will be managed through DOI's Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program. Funding is allocated based upon population by insular area. A reserve of \$7,863,776 has been set aside for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<https://www.doi.gov/oia/press/interior-invites-territories-and-freely-associated-states-submit-requests-funding-under>

Technical Assistance Program (TAP): grants are intended for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an insular area government. TAP priorities include, but are not limited to projects which foster development of the insular areas in the following areas: accountability; financial management; economic development; education; energy production; management control initiatives; disaster assistance; natural and cultural resources; capacity building; public safety/emergencies; health initiatives; and invasive species management. TAP grants are available for any of the four U.S. territories and the three freely associated states. Funding for TAP is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy20-tap-grants-gov-application-instructions.pdf>

Maintenance Assistance Program (TAP): grants are used to promote and develop insular institutions and capabilities that improve the operation and maintenance of infrastructure in the island areas. MAP can require a matching contribution from the insular area government. The MAP grant is available to the four U.S. territories and the three freely associated states. Funding for MAP is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy20-map-grants-gov-application-instructions.pdf>

Energizing Insular Communities (EIC): formerly called the Empowering Insular Communities program - provides grant funding for energy strategies that reduce the cost of electricity and reduce dependence on foreign fuels. This program is intended to support the Secretary's priority to utilize our natural resources by ensuring American energy is available to meet security and economic needs. OIA uses the following criteria in evaluating proposals: the size of reduction in a territory's dependence on off-island fuels;

the size of reduction in cost of electricity in the territory; and the degree to which the proposal is identified and supported in the territory's Strategic Energy Plan and/or Energy Action Plan Funding for EIC is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oia-fy2020-eic-grant-application-instruction-package.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Department of the Interior Website:

<https://www.doi.gov/>

Office of Insular Affairs Program Website:

<https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>

Contact Information: (202) 208-4707, Weihao Jennifer Feng – Republic of the Marshall Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and General TAP Grants, Maintenance Assistance Grants.

<https://www.doi.gov/oia/who-we-are/oia-office>

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The EPA works to protect human health and the environment. The agency works to ensure that Americans have clean air, land, and water; national efforts to reduce environmental risks are based on the best available scientific information; federal laws protecting human health and the environment are administered and enforced fairly, effectively and as Congress intended; environmental stewardship is integral to U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy; all parts of society--communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments--have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks; contaminated lands and toxic sites are cleaned up by potentially responsible parties and revitalized; and chemicals in the marketplace are reviewed for safety.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Multipurpose Grants to States and Tribes: This grant program provides funding to states, tribes, and territories for high priority activities that complement programs under established environmental statutes.

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/multipurpose-grants-states-and-tribes>

Air Grants and Funding: includes competitive grant funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>

Brownfields Grants and Funding: existing facilities where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination.

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

Environmental Education Grants: projects to help the public make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.

<https://www.epa.gov/education/grants>

Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program: provides funding to develop an Internet-based, secure network that supports the electronic collection, exchange, and integration of high-quality data.

<https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program>

National Clean Diesel Campaign Grants and Funding: building diesel engine emission reduction programs across the country to improve air quality and protect public health. People, Prosperity and the Planet: college students address challenges from a wide range of categories: agriculture, built environment, materials and chemicals, energy, and water. These can be challenges found in the developed or developing world and the solutions will move us towards a sustainable future.

<https://www.epa.gov/dera/national>

Pollution Prevention Grant Program: provides matching funds to state and tribal programs to support pollution prevention and to develop State-based programs.

<https://www.epa.gov/p2/grant-programs-pollution-prevention>

Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) Grants and Funding: includes competitive grant funding announcements for projects and programs relating to

Brownfields, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse, Solid Waste management, resource conservation and recovery, Underground Storage Tanks and other related topics.

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/office-land-and-emergency-management-grants-and-funding>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>

EPA Region 2 Contact Information: (877) 251-4575,

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/forms/contact-epa-region-2>

EPA Region 2 Virgin Islands Field Office:

Tunick Building, Suite 102

1336 Beltjen Road

St. Thomas, VI 00801

VIRGIN ISLANDS AGENCIES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (VIDE)

VIDE works to provide a safe and nurturing environment, high quality instruction, and continuous support so ALL students succeed in college and careers as citizens in a globally diverse world.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Breakfast, Lunch Meal Distribution: Effective Monday, April 6, the VIDE will consolidate breakfast and lunch distributions in its “NO V.I. Child Goes Hungry” Feeding Initiative to a once daily distribution from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Both meals may be picked up at the designated locations during these hours. The move is in an effort to minimize staff exposure to the public, provide convenience for a single pick up time for parents, and decrease fuel costs for transportation of meals. The schedule will remain in effect for the duration of the feeding initiative, which is expected to conclude before June 4.

St. Croix Pick up Locations - Breakfast & Lunch: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- Alfredo Andrews Elementary School

- Claude O. Markoe Elementary School
- Eulalie R. Rivera K-8 School
- John H. Woodson Junior High School
- Juanita Gardine K-8 School
- Lew Muckle Elementary School
- Ricardo Richards Elementary School
- St. Croix Educational Complex High School

St. Thomas Pick up Locations - Breakfast & Lunch: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- Alvin McBean BallPark
- Anna's Retreat Community Center
- Bordeaux Basketball Court
- Contant Knolls Community Center
- Estate Bovoni Community Center
- Frydenhoj Ballpark
- Joseph Sibilly School (front parking lot)
- Luveland Community Center
- Michael Kirwan Terrace Community Center
- Oswald E. Harris Court Community Center
- Paul M. Pearson Garden Community Center
- Savan Basketball Court
- Smith Bay Ballpark
- Tutu Valley Basketball Court
- Ulla F. Muller Elementary School; (front entrance)
- Winston Raymo Recreational Center

St. John Pick up Locations - Breakfast & Lunch: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- Bellevue
- Calabash Boom
- Chocolate Hole
- Coral Bay Fire Station
- George Simmons Terrace
- Julius E. Sprauve School
- Pine Peace Basketball Court

*Some participation sites may be added, removed, or consolidated depending on participation levels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Virgin Islands Department of Education Website:

<http://www.vide.vi/news/2002-coronavirus-covid-19-official-gvi-updates.html>

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (VIDOL)

VIDOL's mission to administer a system of effective programs and services designed to develop, protect and maintain a viable workforce requires the building of partnerships with government agencies, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders. It also requires a commitment to continuous improvement, reducing costs, improving business processes, technological efficiency, developing staff through training/mentoring/education, improving compliance with regulatory mandates and being a catalyst for positive change.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Division of Occupational Safety and Health: ensures as much as practicable, a safe and healthful working environment for all public sector employers and employees of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Division of Workers' Compensation: strives to minimize the adverse impact of work-related injuries on the employees and employers of the territory by providing temporary medical and disability benefits for work-related injuries and diseases.

Division of Labor Relation: provides protection of workers' rights, regulates the employment practices of employers, promotes job opportunities for residents of the territory and encourages a healthier, more harmonious relationship between labor unions, the private business sector and the government.

Division of Job Service: provides a viable and highly effective labor exchange system for the territory by connecting job seekers with suitable jobs and employers with qualified/skilled workers.

Division of Training: targets both youth and adults in the development and implementation of programs that are designed to address the needs of unskilled job seekers, the economically disadvantaged, the older worker, the unemployed, the underemployed, dislocated workers and individuals with serious barriers to employment.

Division of Unemployment Insurance: administers income support to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own by systematically accumulating funds from employers during periods of employment from which benefits may be paid.

Division of Administration: complies with state and federal procurement laws and is charged with the responsibility of supervising all fiscal matters of the department by administering such functions as payroll, business and administrative services and plants and facilities management.

Bureau of Labor Statistics: federally mandated with the responsibility of collecting, compiling, arranging, analyzing and publishing statistics on wage, working hours, labor conditions and living costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Virgin Islands Department of Labor Website:

<https://www.vidol.gov/about-us/>

St. Thomas VIDOL Contact Information: (340) 776-3700

St. Croix VIDOL Contact Information: (340) 773-1994

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DPNR)

The mission of DPNR is to protect, maintain and manage the natural and cultural resources of the Virgin Islands through proper coordination of economic and structural development in collaboration with other local, federal and non-governmental organizations, for the benefit of present and future generations so that they will live safer, healthier lives in harmony with their environment and cultural heritage.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Division of Building Permits: reviews and issues various types of permits: building, plumbing, electrical, demolition, mechanical and occupancy for the construction of new or existing residential, commercial or any other type of structure that will be occupied or used by an individual, family or group. The Division inspects all construction activity throughout the Territory to ensure minimum local and national building code compliance. The codes enforced are Title 29 of the Virgin Islands Code, the International Building

Code, the International Residential Code, International Mechanical Code, International Energy Conservation Code, the National Electrical Code and the Uniform Plumbing Code.

The Division is also responsible for the oversight and management of:

Floodplain Management: an innovative approach to creating partnerships between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and participating NFIP communities, regional agencies, State agencies, tribes, and universities that have the interest and capability to become more active participants in the FEMA flood hazard mapping program.

Tropical Energy Code Implementation Program: The Tropical Energy Code Implementation Program is a collaborative effort between the Virgin Islands Energy Office and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to promote the adoption and implementation process of the existing draft Model Buildings Energy Tropical Codes up to the 2009 national level. The Division will conduct public hearings, complete legislative processes, conduct training, public service announcements, and printing/distribution of updated Tropical Code manuals.

Division of Environmental Enforcement: enforces all environmental, boating safety and permitting laws of the United States Virgin Islands and to protect, conserve and preserve the natural resources of the Territory. The Division also supports the philosophy of “zero tolerance” toward illegal drugs by assisting federal and local enforcement agencies to participate in joint initiatives aimed at eradicating illegal drugs within the USVI borders; enforcement of Homeland Security duties through land and marine patrols focused at preventing terrorist attacks aimed at crippling the Territory’s economy; and finally, enforcement of federal fisheries laws as stipulated in the “Joint Enforcement Agreement”.

Division of Environmental Protection: is a regulatory body within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. The Division works to protect human health and preserve the quality of the United States Virgin Islands’ air, land, and water resources for use and enjoyment today and in the future.

Coastal Zone Management Program: was established to manage, enhance, protect, and preserve our coastal resources, while reducing conflict between competing land and water uses. It represents a comprehensive approach to minimizing the impacts of activities on our coastal resources. Our program is strongly committed to the overall management of the coastlines to ensure environmental and economic sustainability for future generations.

Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning: formulates long-range plans and policies, including the development of a comprehensive plan to properly guide and manage

physical, economic, and social growth and development trends in the territory. The Division is also responsible for administering DPNR's zoning map amendment, group dwelling, and subdivision processes; and for reviewing their effectiveness and appropriateness. The Division provides technical planning assistance to other divisions and departments by reviewing business license and earth change applications for zoning compliance and serves as a resource center for the DPNR, other government agencies and the general public; and is responsible for coordinating territorial planning activities and capital projects between the public and private sector.

Division of Fish and Wildlife: is charged with monitoring, assessing, and implementing activities to enhance and preserve fish and wildlife resources of the Virgin Islands. The Bureau of Environmental Education provides access and knowledge to the public, the Bureau of Fisheries aids recreational and commercial fishers, and the Bureau of Wildlife coordinates wildlife issues and populations. The DFW is a reliable source of information on how to preserve, protect, restore, and manage the natural and ecological environments of fish and wildlife.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Planning and Natural Resources Website:

<https://dpr.vi.gov/>

DPNR Contact Information: Jamal Nielsen, (340) 773-1082, jamal.nielsen@dpr.vi.gov

<https://dpr.vi.gov/home/contact/>

VIRGIN ISLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (VIEDA)

The VIEDA is responsible for the promotion and enhancement of economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It has four major components: Economic Development Bank, Economic Development Commission, Economic Development Parks, and Enterprise Zone Commission.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Economic Development Bank: provides financial and technical assistance to the local business community through various loan programs which channels access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses. This can include starting or expanding a business, purchasing an existing business, acquiring inventory, materials & supplies, machinery & equipment, furniture & fixtures, and funding leasehold improvements and working capital.

Economic Development Commission: promotes the growth, development and diversification of the economy of the United States Virgin Islands by developing the human and economic resources of the Territory, preserving job opportunities for residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and promoting capital formation to support economic development in the Territory.

Tax benefits - The EDC administers a tax incentive program for businesses in which approved applicants shall be granted a 90% income tax exemption and a 1% customs duty from the standard 6%. These benefits can be renewed provided that the applicant remains in compliance with EDC laws.

EDC Small Business Program - The EDC also administers the EDC Small Business Program which mirrors the regular tax incentive program by providing tax benefits for local eligible small businesses in the Territory.

Economic Development Parks: The Economic Development Park Corporation operates two industrial parks, the Williams D. Roebuck Industrial Park on St. Croix and the Virgin Islands Industrial Park on St. Thomas.

Enterprise Zone Commission: The Enterprise Zone Commission was created to revitalize blighted and distressed communities that once were socially and economically vibrant. The authorizing act provides for tax incentives and economic development benefits free from regulatory barriers which inhibit economic growth, and encourages collaboration among public, private and nonprofit entities in order to accomplish the desired objectives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority Website:

<https://www.usvieda.org/about-vieda>

VIEDA Plans and Reports:

<https://www.usvieda.org/about-vieda/plans-and-reports>

VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY (VIFHA) - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)

Hurricanes Irma and Maria had a devastating impact on the United States Virgin Islands. The two back-to-back Category 5 storms in September 2017 caused significant destruction to housing, infrastructure, and the economy. CDBG-DR provides funding for unmet needs after Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds, insurance, and other federal or private sources are accounted for, with a focus on the needs of low- and moderate-income residents and businesses.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This money is managed by the U.S. Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) and spending is prioritized in programs designed through the U.S. Virgin Islands Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan. This plan proposes a portfolio of programs to address unmet housing, public service, infrastructure, and economic needs.

CDBG-DR funds are intended by HUD to address the unmet needs in housing, infrastructure, and economic revitalization from 2017 hurricanes and mitigation activities to protect the Territory from the damage of future events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA)

<https://www.vihfa.gov/>

Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority Website:

<http://www.usviodr.com/programs/cdbg-dr/>

CDBG-DR Action Plan:

<https://www.vihfa.gov/sites/default/files/USVI%20Disaster%20Recovery%20Action%20Plan%203.1.19.pdf>

HUD Program Overview:

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CDBG-Disaster-Recovery-Overview.pdf>