



“ROAD TO RECOVERY”

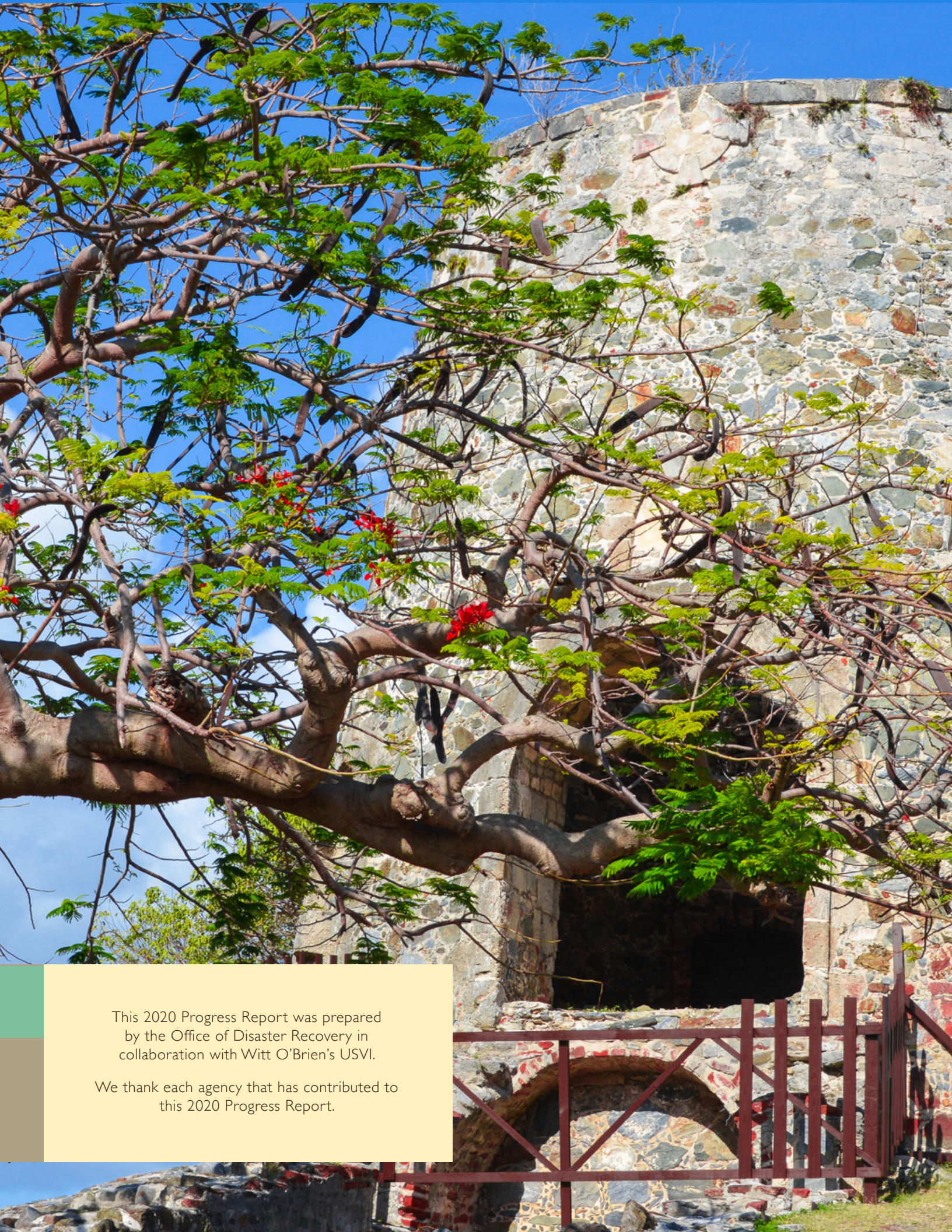
2020

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Post Hurricanes Irma and Maria

September 2020





This 2020 Progress Report was prepared by the Office of Disaster Recovery in collaboration with Witt O'Brien's USVI.

We thank each agency that has contributed to this 2020 Progress Report.



2020

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT "ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Post Hurricanes Irma and Maria • September 2020

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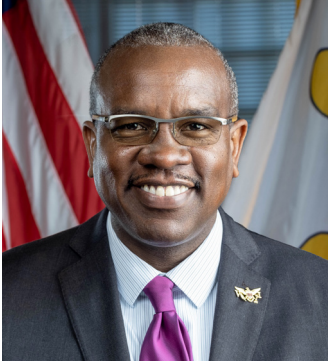
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Albert Bryan Jr.



Three years have passed since two of the most powerful hurricanes in recorded history struck the Virgin Islands of the United States, leaving in their wake a trail of destruction that included several of the territory's schools, both of its hospitals, homes, businesses, and other critical infrastructure. While recovery is never fast enough, we have made steady progress in the 20 months of the Bryan Roach Administration and continue to chip away at the barrier to normalcy on behalf of the Virgin Islanders most affected by the storms' impact.

This report outlines our recovery goals and highlights our progress along the path to a brighter, more resilient Virgin Islands. It remains a priority of my administration to ensure proper stewardship of federal disaster recovery funds and the timely execution of projects.

Thanks to the tireless work of the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) and the Portfolio Management Office (PMO), we have made significant progress toward our long-term recovery in 2020 and will continue that progress through 2021. Amid the challenges presented this year, as a result of the global pandemic, we managed to continue our progress on many of our priority recovery projects. Some of that progress includes:

- Completion of the modular hospital at the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital is scheduled for December;
- Completion of the new schools plan and Request for Proposal for architectural design and rebuild of the Charlotte Amalie, Julius Sprauve, and Arthur A. Richards schools;
- Completion of the Request for Proposal for the architectural design for the reconstruction of the Charles Harwood Medical Complex in St. Croix;

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- Execution of the contract for four new generating units with battery storage for the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's Randolph Harley Power Plant in St. Thomas;
- Begun renovation and restoration of historical properties on Government House St. Croix, St. Thomas and the Battery in St. John;
- Secured obligation for FEMA funding to refurbish facilities at the Fort Frederick beach and Cramers Park on St. Croix and restoration of Emile Griffith Ballpark on St. Thomas through the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation;

As we enter now our fourth year of the recovery, I want Virgin Islanders to know that our push to capitalize on this once in a century opportunity to improve and make more resilient our capital infrastructure remains our top priority.

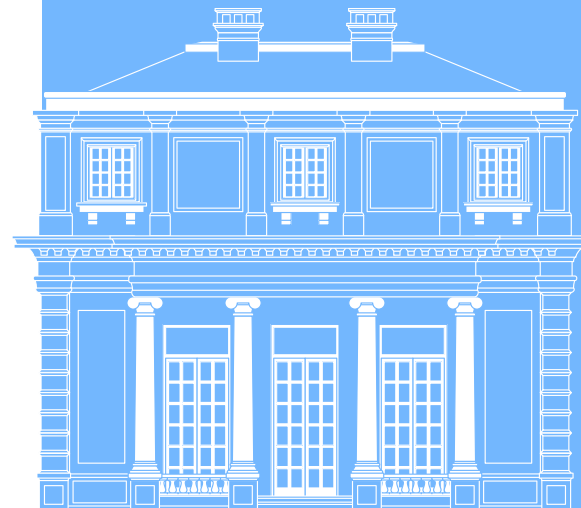
Thank you for your patience and perseverance, and for entrusting the Bryan/Roach administration with this tremendous opportunity to work with you toward making our beautiful home a brighter, more resilient Virgin Islands.



Albert Bryan Jr.

Governor

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS



Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien



Thank you for taking the time to read the 2020 Hurricanes Irma and Maria Recovery Progress Report - "Road to Recovery." Following the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Irma & Maria and the subsequent influx of recovery funding coming into the US Virgin Islands, the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) was developed and mandated to spearhead the Territory's comprehensive recovery approach. Almost 18 months since the initial engagement with our federal partners, the ODR remains steadfast in its commitment to access the available recovery funds, execute projects to spend those funds timely and in alignment with federal mandates. This annual report will provide you with a comprehensive update of the progress to date.


In accordance with Governor Bryan's priority areas, the ODR is working to ensure success in the key areas of Schools, Housing, Health & Hospitals, Roads and Utilities. The foundation has been laid towards revitalizing our electrical infrastructure, rebuilding and modernizing our schools on all three islands, providing critical repairs and replacements to our healthcare system and many other priority areas impacting the quality of life for citizens in our community.

Key milestones continue to be met daily, not only towards the repair of our physical infrastructure but the continued financial stability of the Virgin Islands. The Territory has received \$3.5 billion of our expected \$8 billion in funding to date. Consequently, three years into the recovery, there is still much work remaining.

As we enter the fourth year of recovery in the Virgin Islands, the Territory expects to receive additional funding that will support efforts to get more recovery projects started. Projects related to public buildings will move into the design stage, and other projects will begin to break ground for construction. Additionally, efforts are being made to ensure future construction for our critical facilities are being built to Industry Codes and Standards to enable these structures to withstand the strength of future and potentially more dangerous storms.

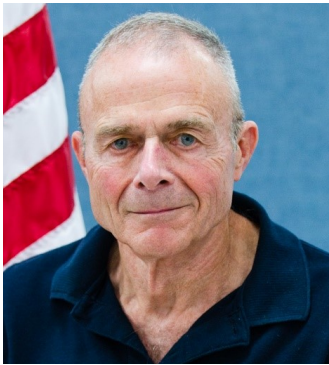
With the understanding that the road to recovery is long and involves navigating the complexities of several federal funding sources- each with its own prescribed method for operation, the Territory still has a tremendous opportunity to rebuild these beautiful islands. The Office of Disaster Recovery remains laser-focused in moving the recovery projects forward towards its mission of Building a Legacy of Resilience - one that will benefit generations of Virgin Islanders to come. I encourage you to remain steadfast as we continue together on the Road to Recovery.



Sincerely,

Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien
Director

William Vogel

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
"ROAD TO RECOVERY"



Landing in St. Croix on September 3, 2017 I had no idea what laid before me. In less than three weeks, hurricanes Irma and Maria would leave trails of devastation across the entire Territory and we would be in the midst of a massive joint response to meet survivors' immediate emergency and medical needs.

As we approach the three-year mark in our recovery, I want to start by thanking you all for the heroic efforts. This has been an incredible partnership and journey in our unified response to these catastrophic disasters. I am thankful for the tireless efforts under these unprecedented and demanding circumstances and for your patience and determination to overcome.

FEMA alone cannot deliver disaster assistance; unity of effort is required for disaster response and recovery on any scale. All levels of government, nonprofit organizations, private sector businesses, and survivors must work together, each drawing upon their unique skills and capabilities, to meet the needs of disaster survivors.

Although not always obvious, we're in a much different place than we were three years ago. As a result of a coordinated effort across various federal agencies, we are not only addressing hurricane-related damage, but working toward a more resilient future.


Through our FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program, we provide federal disaster grants to repair, replace or restore publicly owned facilities. So far, we have provided more than \$2.3 billion to restore schools, hospitals, the power grid and more. This includes \$69 million for Hazard Mitigation since the 2017 hurricanes.

Once again, our daily lives and the field of emergency management have been transformed within a matter of weeks as we battle the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During this outbreak, I have been heartened at how the recovery team has transformed how we work, day-by-day or even minute-by-minute to meet our mission.



FEMA

Executive Summary 2020



Despite the impacts of COVID-19, which has necessitated that governmental officials divide their attention across multiple priorities, Year 3 of the recovery from the 2017 hurricanes in the U.S. Virgin Islands has continued to show progress with the focus primarily on positioning the Territory for the major reconstruction effort ahead. As Year 3 comes to a close, design is just getting underway on the first of dozens of major rebuilding projects, which is likely to continue throughout Year 4. Construction repairs commenced or continued on numerous facilities, including Government House on St. Thomas, and the installation of the temporary JFL hospital on St. Croix was nearing completion.



Major accomplishments in Year 3 include the following:

- The USVI received FEMA approval on six “industry standards” specific to the unique environment of the Territory – educational facilities, healthcare facilities, water, wastewater, communications and emergency services - as allowed for in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which will provide for reconstruction to modern, resilient standards.
- The Department of Public Works received FEMA approval to reconstruct roads in accordance with federal standards, which will significantly increase the safety and longevity to these critical facilities.
- Design funds were approved for the first HUD CDBG-DR funded infrastructure projects for upgrade and expansion of generators at the Harley Power Plant on St. Thomas, and for two major roadway reconstruction projects – Northside Road on St. Croix and the Donoe Bypass on St. Thomas.
- Masterplans were completed Territory-wide for the VIDE K-12 school system and the DHS Homes for the Aged, setting the stage for bold new reconstruction projects to follow. VIDE intends to consolidate into a system with fewer state-of-the-art schools, while DHS plans to convert its two long-term care facilities to skilled nursing facilities offering a broad array of new services for the elderly.
- FEMA approved the first major school campus for full “prudent replacement” as provided for in the

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 – Arthur Richards K-8 on St. Croix. Several other campuses are also under consideration for prudent replacement, as are many other healthcare facilities across the Territory. FEMA also approved the replacement of the Vincent Mason Frederiksted Pool, the Bureau of Corrections Swan Annex on St. Thomas and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles building on St. Thomas.

- CDBG-DR funded housing recovery got underway in Year 3 with the first seven of what is expected to be hundreds of homes to be repaired or reconstructed under the VIHFA EnVIsion Tomorrow program.
- DPNR issued \$655 thousand in grants directly to Fishers impacted by the 2017 hurricanes as part of a \$10 million grant from NOAA.

Overall, Year 3 of the recovery has been a success, despite unprecedented circumstances. The Territory has continued to work collaboratively with the federal government and other stakeholders to advance key projects and resolve complex issues. In late 2017, just a few months after the hurricanes, the total recovery funding was projected to be approximately \$8 billion. At the end of Year 3, with nearly \$5 billion already allocated, more than \$3.5 billion obligated and over \$1.5 billion expended, the USVI has much to show for its efforts to date and much cause for optimism in the complete recovery of the Territory in just a few more years.

Following is a detailed look at Year 3 of the recovery, including a close examination of the organization of the recovery, the strategic approach and the results. “The Road Ahead” section at the end of the report looks forward to the end of Year 4 and includes a sector-by-sector forecast of where the Territory hopes to be at that time.



Since being created in February of 2019, the Virgin Islands Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR), a subsidiary of the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority, has established itself as the central repository for all hurricane recovery program information, resources and reporting. The agency is charged with providing oversight and coordination across all government entities receiving federal disaster funding. In doing so, ODR consistently monitors federal funding expenditures to ensure compliance with program regulations and tracks the progress of all recovery projects.

With over \$8 billion in anticipated recovery funding, the Territory's capacity to process 6 X its operating budget has been identified as a significant risk that requires specialized attention to ensure that funds are utilized and expended effectively.

Therefore, over the last year, ODR's focus has been on assessing and building capacity to manage projects, advocating with federal partners to get projects funded, working collaboratively with agencies to start, complete and expend projects with available funding and ensuring that it is all done in compliance with federal regulations.

With a staff of 15 employees territory-wide and through an Executive Order, ODR oversees the operations of the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) to ensure coordination and concise execution of the recovery process.

The Public Assistance program works with a team of 18 members territory-wide. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has 11 staff members.

Understanding the tremendous responsibility that the Territory was tasked with undertaking, the Department of Interior (DOI) – Office of Insular Affairs granted \$3 million to the Government of the Virgin Islands to establish the ODR in August of 2018. The DOI funds have a period of performance of 2 years with a deadline of November 23, 2020. These funds played a critical role in allowing the office to mobilize, assess capacity, provide technical assistance and support to agencies and share pertinent recovery information to the public and recovery stakeholders.

DOI's continued support of the Territory is also evident as it liaises with other federal partners on behalf of the territory to ensure the success of the recovery.

KEY INITIATIVES

As ODR enters the 4th year of recovery, the focus remains on getting projects funded and completed, and several key initiatives and accomplishments of year 3 established the foundation to fulfill the identified aim.



I. GET PROJECTS FUNDED

Agreement of Damage Description and Dimensions

The preliminary step in formulating a FEMA Public Assistance project requires concurrence by both FEMA and the Territory on all the storm-related damages associated which a project referred to as Damages Descriptions and Dimensions (DDD's). Recently, FEMA and Territory agreed on a goal to close out all pending DDD's. The Territory has been able to agree on 124 of 184 remaining Project DDDs within four months of the initial start date. Critical DDD's were agreed to relating to VI Public Broadcasting System – WTJX's Haypiece Facility, the Department of Education's contents for both the St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John Districts, and Schneider Regional Medical Center.

As of August 31st, there were 60 DDDs pending agreement between the Territory and FEMA. The next step will be to continue progress with the aim of completing the activity prior to the end of November 2020.

Approval of Industry Standards

In February 9, 2018, the President of the United States signed the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) which made sweeping changes to the Stafford Act for Hurricane Maria disasters (USVI and Puerto Rico only), enabling FEMA to:

- 1) replace or restore the function of a facility or system to industry standards without regard to the pre-disaster condition of the facility or system; and



DDD's PENDING AGREEMENT

FEMA



TERRITORY



2) replace or restore components of the facility or system not damaged by the disaster where necessary to fully effectuate the replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged components to restore the function of the facility or system to industry standards.

The Territory completed the steps to take full advantage of the opportunities presented in the BBA to restore facilities to industry standards where possible. To date, the USVI, with the support of Witt O'Brien's has submitted its own proposed industry standards for FEMA approval, all of which have been approved.







Secure Extension on Fixed Cost Offer (428 Projects)

In order to receive the benefits afforded in the BBA, projects must utilize the Section 428 Alternative Public Assistance Program Procedures capped grant. These fixed grants, referred to simply as 428 projects, have been proven to be the most cost-effective approach. However, development of a fixed cost escalation factor is required in order to develop a realistic cost estimate for fixed grant agreements.

On August 18, 2020, the Territory requested a time extension to the September 20, 2020 extension to accept Fixed-Cost Offers (FCO) for projects formulated under Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) - Section 428. The request was for a six-month blanket time extension – until March 20, 2021. As of the original March 20, 2020, deadline, the Territory had only received 29 Fixed Cost Offers, out of the list of 337 potential 428 projects identified jointly by FEMA and the Territory. Recognizing the severity of the 2017 storms' impact and current extenuating circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Territory is hopeful that an additional time extension will be granted to develop the remaining agreements to fixed-cost estimates for Section 428 Projects.

Accessing resources to Manage Projects

In order to support the administration of recovery projects, ODR advocated for the obligation of management costs project worksheets (PW) in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018. These PWs provide access to funding that can be utilized to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect. To date, over \$71 million in management cost PWs have been obligated across all sub-recipients.

Standards		Status	
		Approved	Declined
	Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Roads	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Utilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





II. SPEND MONEY

ODR has overseen the expenditure of over \$337 million in the last year across the four major recovery programs. The Public Assistance program represents the largest source of expenditures at \$309 million, with critical infrastructure projects making significant progress over the last year. Additionally, the programs have seen over \$1.2 billion obligated since this time last year. The HUD CDBG-DR Program made \$779 million available in its Tranche 2 funding, while the FEMA-PA Program obligated over \$432 million in projects in the last year. ODR works very closely with the local administering entities and federal partners to ensure that funding becomes available for critical projects across the Territory.

Architectural and Engineering Support for Recovery Projects

Due to the large number of recovery projects being developed within the Territory, there is an increased need to both improve and expand capacity within the government to manage the added volume of both work and funding coming into the Territory.

As the Government of the Virgin Islands' architect of record, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is required to sign off on all design and scope of work of capital projects. In an effort to support the Department of Public Works, the ODR contracted with Springline Architects to provide support for DPW's current workload.

Project Management

ODR, in conjunction with the Department of Property and Procurement (DPP), initiated the Blanket Solicitation for Project Management. The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) was for the Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI) to conduct a single bid solicitation for project management services, across Emergency Management – Fire, Police, Housing, Utilities, Roadway, and Public Buildings. Given a gap in the GVI capacity for project management services, the GVI solicited qualified and licensed project management firms to deliver effective project management services, according to industry best practices. The next step will be for DPP to finalize the evaluation process and begin contract negotiation with the successful respondent for each of the identified industries.

Top 100 Recovery Projects

Governor Bryan established the Top 100 Recovery Projects which includes projects from across various funding sources. These priorities were established based on the projects that affected the largest percentage of the community, the criticality of the service and project readiness. The priority projects are set around Hospitals, Schools, Housing, Utilities and Roads.



ODR convenes a regular Top Projects meeting with all Departments with projects that have been designated as a priority to ascertain the status and identify cross-cutting impediments to project completion. This meeting is also a means of sharing information across the Departments on matters related to funding, permitting and procurement.

Shovel Ready Projects

As of September 2020, ODR currently has 138 projects that are ready to be deployed for construction. These projects are valued at \$917 million spanning all priority recovery areas. Utility and housing projects dominate the list with key projects related to the power infrastructure and the EnVision Tomorrow Homeowner Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program. Along with the ongoing work at the Governor Juan F. Luis Temporary Hospital, several schools are also prepared to undergo major repairs and demolition in the near future. Various roads under the auspices of the Department of Public Works have entered the design phase and account for 35 projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration–Emergency Repair program. The Department of Sports Parks and Recreation has 38 projects in various phases that are ready for work to be completed. As projects become funded, ODR works diligently to ensure that resources are in place to get projects executed.



III. SPEND CORRECTLY

To eliminate the risk of the deobligation or loss of recovery funds, ODR also has the responsibility to ensure that funds are spent in compliance with federal regulations that govern them, while also identifying and addressing capacity issues of agencies that impact the administration of the funding and management of the projects related to the recovery.

Audit

The ODR conducted compliance reviews in the form of audits. An audit schedule was developed, and audits commenced in November of 2019. To date five agencies have been audited.

Consultant Engagement Process

As part of its responsibilities to monitor the expenditure of federal disaster funds, ODR's financial team conducted an analysis on the five percent (5%) Management Cost associated with FEMA Public Assistance PWs. This analysis allowed ODR to advise agencies on their current spending pattern and implement processes to ensure efficient utilization of the consulting support and financial management of their recovery funds.

The Consultant Engagement Process was born out of this process and implemented by ODR. The procedure requires all work being performed by consultants Witt O'Brien's and Ernst & Young to be approved by the engaging the Department and the Office of Disaster Recovery. All assignments are issued through task orders and workplans are submitted and approved prior to the commencement of work. This process allows for better cost management and tracking of activities by consultants.

Capacity Improvement

The management of the recovery created an additional workload for many departments and agencies that were inundated prior to the storm with their regular responsibilities. ODR has assessed the Departments and identified several recurring themes.

With the support of the consultants Ernst & Young, Capacity Improvement Plans were developed for eight agencies, which have been identified as being in critical resources to manage the funds.

ODR continues to liaise with grantee agencies through one - on - one recovery status meetings on a regular basis. Due to COVID-19, recovery meetings are held virtually. Between January 2020 - September 2020, ODR has held recovery meetings on a consistent basis with 22 grantee agencies.



Disaster Program Specialist positions were developed and filled to provide additional support to government entities. These positions will be reimbursable through disaster program funding.

Trainings & Workshops

The administration and coordination of the funding and management of the projects is vital to the success of the recovery. The ODR has provided technical assistance, trainings and workshops to all recipients and the public to help improve and inform on the processes, requirements and regulations to manage and do business with federally funded disaster projects.

- The ODR in conjunction with the Department of Property and Procurement hosted a Procurement Management Training for both central and semi-autonomous agencies on October 29 - 31, 2019 and then again on February 25 - 26, 2020. The intent of the training was to ensure that all agencies



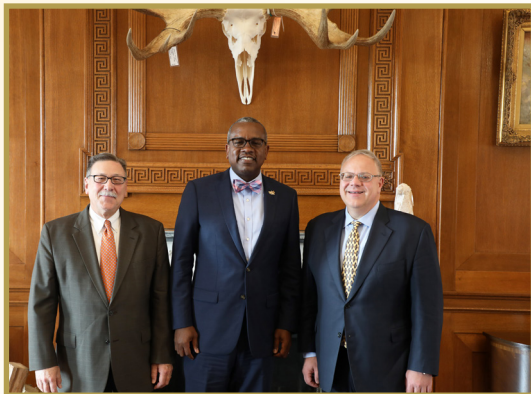
of the USVI are utilizing proper application and utilization of disaster recovery funding in accordance with the program mandates.

- On April 16 and August 20, 2020, ODR provided Payment Processing Training to all subrecipients of FEMA funding. The training focused on the force account labor process which covered force account contract, materials and equipment and the requirements for reimbursements.
- Management Cost Training was conducted Territory wide, January 22 – 23, 2020, in an effort to educate applicants on eligible expenses related to the administration of their recovery projects and the required documentation needed to qualify for Management Costs (CAT-Z PW). There were 62 attendees on St. Thomas and 50 attendees on St. Croix.
- Grants Portal training was provided to the Juan F. Luis Hospital, V.I Port Authority, V.I. Fire Service, Sports, Park and Recreation, V.I Police Department, Bureau of Corrections, V.I Department of Agriculture, WTJX, Department of Health and the Department of Education. The virtual training took place in January and February 2020.
- ODR staff received training on FEMA's online grants management tool on January 29, August 5, and August 7, 2020. Training focused on key report development, such as Request for Information (RFI), Damages, Dimensions and Descriptions (DDD), and Project Reports that would ensure staff could track status and updates on non-obligated projects. Furthermore, staff were able to alert agencies on any pending actions required by FEMA to ensure projects continued to progress to obligation in a timely manner.
- ODR in conjunction with FEMA held the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) training on March 10, 2020 on St. Croix and March 12, 2020 on St. Thomas. The training was to inform the agencies who have projects that are eligible on what were the steps necessary in implementing the BBA and Public Assistance alternative procedures for permanent work.



STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Coordination and outreach are critical aspects of the disaster recovery process both at the local and federal levels as well as for the governmental and non-governmental sectors.



Governor Bryan is pictured with DOI Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech (L) and Secretary David Berthardt (R).



Governor Bryan on his visit to Washington D.C. meets with FEMA Administrator Peter Gaynor.

Federal Stakeholders

The federal funds appropriated to the Territory crosses over several federal sources, with varying regulations, policies and procedures. Subsequently, the ODR has successfully established and maintained relationships with federal partners from the US Congress as well as the headquarters of FEMA, DOT, HUD, EPA and DOI to discuss streamlining the use of recovery funds when multiple federal sources are involved.

- ODR in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and VI Housing Finance Authority met with federal partners in Washington DC, October 29 -31, 2019 to discuss the status of the US Virgin Islands recovery projects and identify solutions for eliminating barriers to implementation based on the overall strategic plan for recovery.
- FEMA Administrator Peter Gaynor, FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer William Vogel, ODR Director Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, and staff met to discuss the Territory's progress since his last trip in December 2019 on February 11th. FEMA officials and the ODR team toured top project locations across the Territory to include, government buildings, schools, fire stations, and homes, starting on the 11th and ending at Tutu Hi-Rise on St. Thomas on February 13th.

Accomplishments and resolutions during the first half of 2020 as a result of direct collaboration with FEMA include:

- Issuance of payments for the STEP program after extended delays in obligation of the PW.
- Completion of the Department of Education Damage, Dimensions & Descriptions (DDD) for all schools.
- Official approval on the replacement of the Arthur Richards Junior High School.
- Extension granted to September 2020 for fixed cost estimate agreements.
- Obligation of management cost to administer disaster projects and fund critical hires.

Congressional Stakeholders

Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, The Honorable Chairman Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Rep. André Carson (D-IN), led by Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-VI) and joined by the ODR started their visit to St. Croix with FEMA representatives at the Joint Recovery Office on Saturday, February 16th. From there, they visited the Governor Juan F.

Luis Hospital, Arthur A. Richards K-8 School, and a home that was repaired through the STEP Program. Committee members also met with ODR Director and VIHFA Executive Director Daryl Griffith during a working lunch held at the Governor Juan F. eLuis Hospital. Their visit concluded on St. Thomas with a tour of the Crowne Bay Terminal and ferry tour of St. Thomas/Charlotte Amalie Harbor, including a briefing by the VI Port Authority and VI Department of Public Works.



Governor Bryan and ODR Director Williams-Octalien are pictured with representatives from the RAND Cooperation and FEMA.

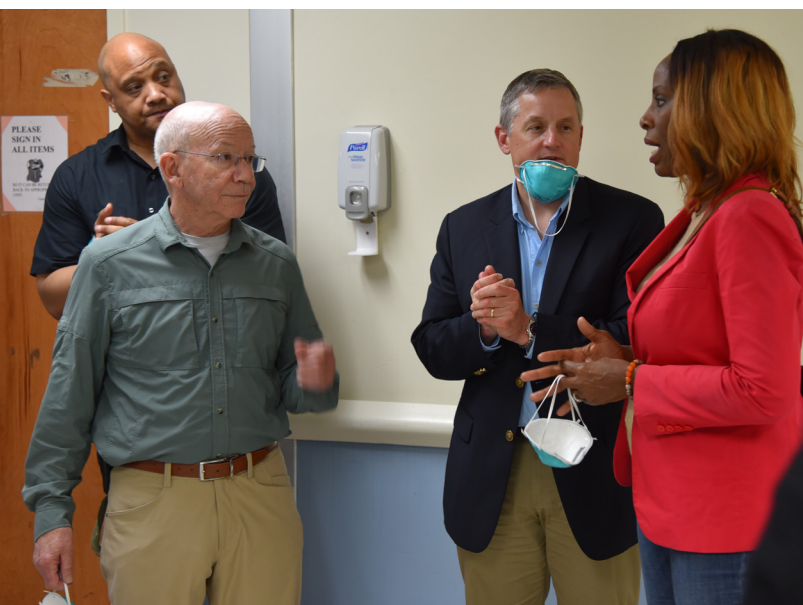
RAND

The RAND (Research ANd Development) Corporation which operates the HSOAC (Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center) provided technical assistance to the territory through FEMA to complete a comprehensive review/revision of the Territorial Long-Term Recovery Plan.

RAND completed a sector-based analysis which focused on cross-sector recovery issues. The analysis looked at accomplishments, challenges and territorial needs to better understand the unique issues of the territory. As a resource, the HSOAC team presented an economic analysis of recovery spending to Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and supported three panel discussions. The panel discussions provided the ODR team and **recovery leaders** with a closer look at the following: (1) Prioritization and Phasing, (2) Portfolio Management and (3) Fiscal Capacity.

At the completion of HSOAC's assistance to the territory the team was able to provide a

Delegate Plaskett and Congressional representatives tour the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix.



comprehensive report on the territory's Data Analysis, Energy, Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Tourism, Recovery Work Force, Education, Health, Housing, Government Management, and Government Fiscal Capacity.



USACE Silver Jackets

Silver Jackets is an interagency flood risk management team with federal, state and local agencies who will work together to reduce the risk from flooding and enhance response and recovery efforts from natural resources. The goal is to have each agency bring resources, funding, and programs together. The team consists of members of ODR, Department of Public Works, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, VITEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, University of the Virgin Islands, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On March 31, 2020, the USVI Silver Jackets Team in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, submitted an Interagency Nonstructural Flood Risk Management

Proposal for an Education & Outreach Resilient Floodplain Management grant for the fiscal year 2021. This first approved grant will cover the cost for an educational campaign on flood risk management to include moderate newspaper, radio, social media, and television promotion.

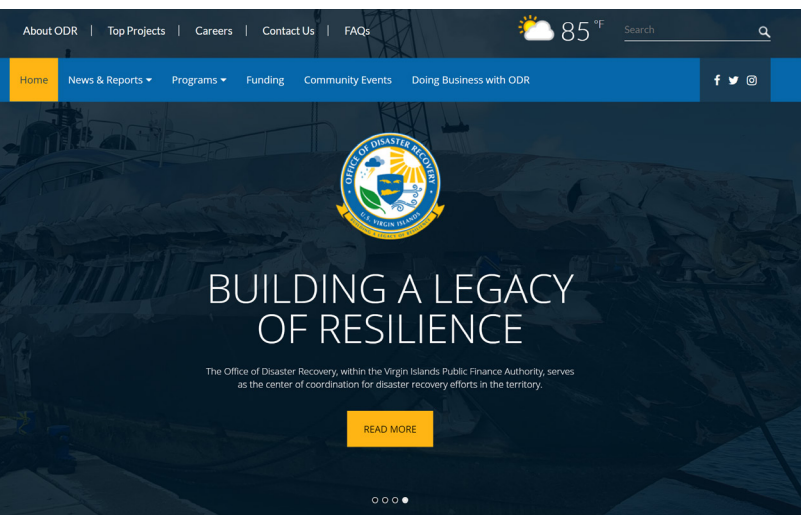
Water/Wastewater Task Force- Subcommittee

The Wastewater Task Force Sub-Committee has the responsibility of finding a comprehensive and cost-effective approach forward to repairing damages to the Territory's Wastewater System following Hurricanes Irma & Maria. It is the intent of the subcommittee to analyze the current available data on the underground infrastructure and move forward with potential avenues to repairing or replacing what is in place. With collaboration between the ODR, FEMA, VI Waste Management Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, and Witt O' Brien's; new opportunities provided through the Bipartisan Budget Act have allowed the Sub-Committee to develop a methodology for FEMA review which ties treatment plants, underground leaks, repair data and storm related damages together in an effort to meet minimum requirements for an island-wide replacement of St. Croix's Waste Water Infrastructure. If approved, this methodology will be leveraged and repeated for both St. Thomas & St. John – improving and expanding services and meeting sanitation needs throughout the territory.



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Transparency throughout this historic recovery process is essential to its success and is consistent with the Bryan-Roach Administration's promise of transparency to the people of the US Virgin Islands.



USVIODR.com

The ODR continues to keep the community informed through the publication of a website (www.usviodr.com) that went live in July 2019. It highlights awareness of all recovery actions and accomplishments, develops transparency of disaster recovery efforts and funding activity, establishes a centralized home for all recovery partners and creates a reliable mode of communication and outreach to its audience.

Recovery in Focus

The Office of Disaster Recovery, in collaboration with the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, which manages the CDBG-DR Program and the USVI local public broadcasting station WTJX-TV Channel 12 (WTJX), launched Recovery in Focus in March 2020 and has since provided the public with the most up to date information on the Territory's progress towards recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Each show opens with a short news segment from ODR marking the Territory's recovery progress. The show has featured Recreational Facilities, Hospitals, Education, Housing and Roads.



2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

RECOVERY FUNDS

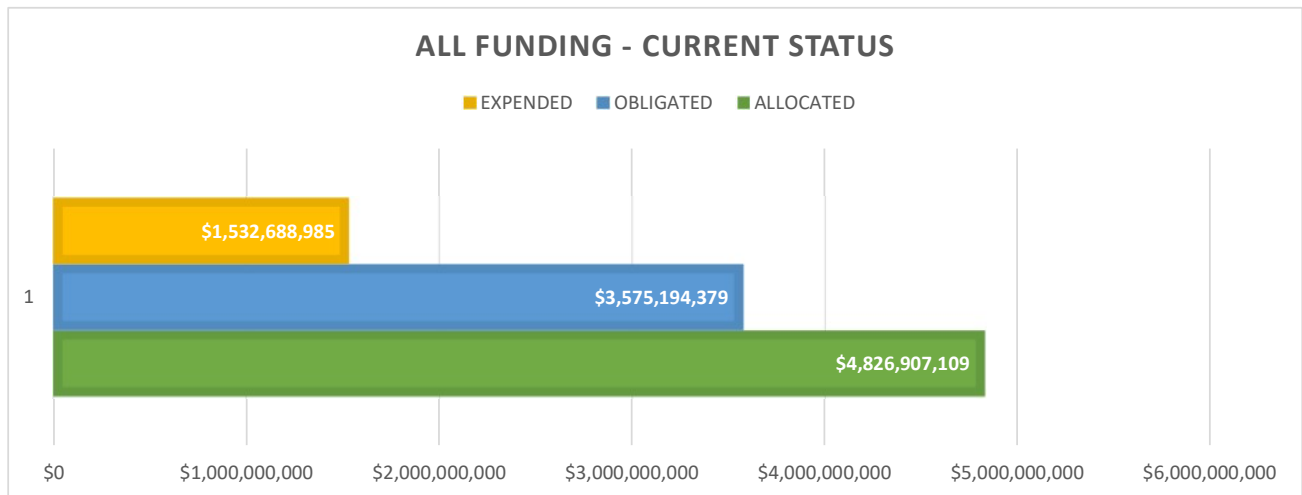


V.I. Office of Disaster Recovery

All Funds Executive Dashboard

As of August 31, 2020

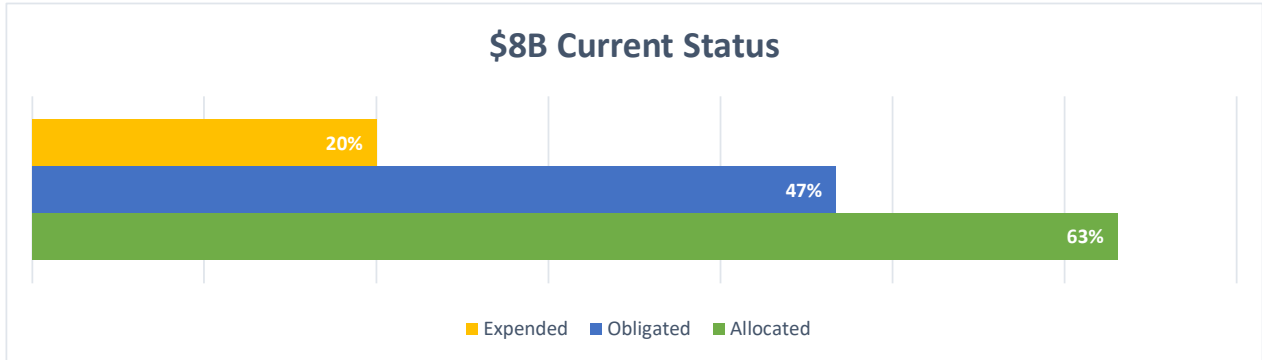
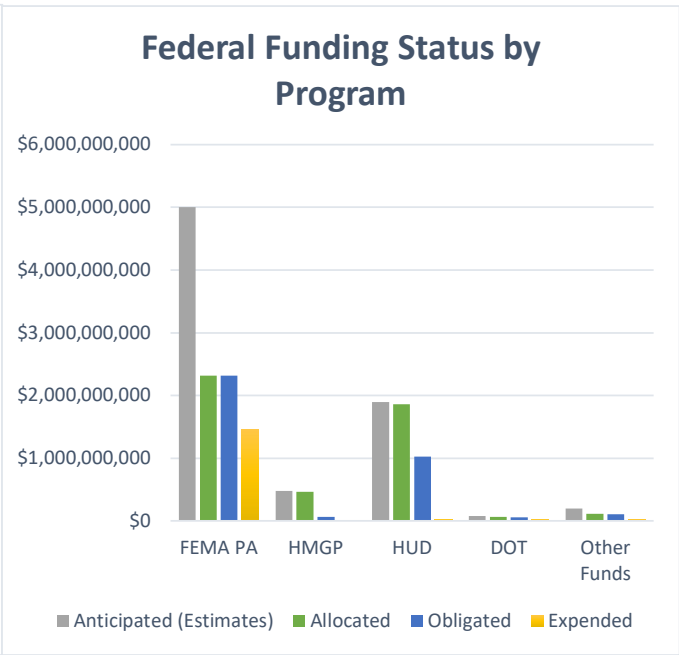
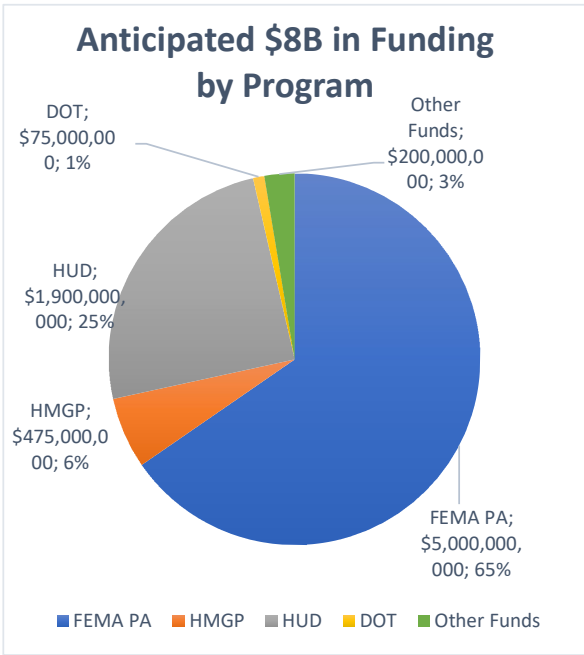
	ANTICIPATED (ESTIMATES)	ALLOCATED	OBLIGATED	EXPENDED
ALL FUNDING SOURCES	\$7,650,000,000	\$4,826,907,109	\$3,575,194,379	\$1,532,688,985



FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS SUMMARY

Funding Sources	Anticipated (Estimates)	Allocated	Obligated	Expended
FEMA PA	\$5,000,000,000	\$2,317,130,993	\$2,317,130,993	\$1,460,933,126
HMGP	\$475,000,000	\$461,878,749	\$68,834,239	\$3,905,837
HUD	\$1,900,000,000	\$1,863,742,000	\$1,021,901,000	\$18,553,249
DOT	\$75,000,000	\$68,042,910	\$58,667,532	\$20,915,787
Other Funds	\$200,000,000	\$116,112,457	\$108,660,615	\$28,380,986
TOTAL	\$7,650,000,000	\$4,826,907,109	\$3,575,194,379	\$1,532,688,985
		63%	47%	20%



"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Programs

FEMA-Public Assistance (PA)

After Disaster Declarations were signed in September 2017 by the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the President of the United States, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) was authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act as the recipient of the FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program for the Territory of the US Virgin Islands. The program is designed to assist State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Governments respond and recover from major disasters or emergencies. The program continues to support government agencies & eligible private non-profit organizations within the Territory by helping to cover the cost for work such as debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and repairing and restoring public infrastructure critical to the Territory's recovery.

On June 17, 2019, ODR was given operational oversight of the PA Program to manage the \$8 billion in disaster recovery funding expected to be obligated to the US Virgin Islands. Of the more than 1,550 recovery projects generated from Hurricanes Irma & Maria, more than \$2.3 billion has been obligated as of August 30.

The Territory's PA Program has far-reaching impacts on the infrastructure of the Virgin Islands in the areas of Health & Hospitals, Education, Housing, Power, and Roads. Providing reimbursements of obligated funds for work completed or in progress remains critical for maintaining financial stability in the wake of a slowed economy resulting from the pandemic.

The PA Program continues to focus on the reimbursement and closeout of all Category A & B emergency work grant projects and reduce the number of small projects left to be reimbursed. Processing these funds is critical to ensure that sub-recipients are reimbursed for scarce resources expended to respond and recover from the disaster.

FEMA PA Funding by Disaster	Obligated Amt.	Expended Amt.
Hurricane Irma (DR4335)	\$ 68,966,459	\$ 16,259,438
Hurricane Maria (DR4340)	\$ 2,248,164,533	\$ 1,444,673,686
Grand Total	\$ 2,317,130,992	\$ 1,460,933,125

Damage Category Codes	Total Projects	Obligated Project
A - Debris Removal	119	111
B - Emergency Protective Measures	445	416
C - Roads and Bridges	93	21
E - Buildings and Equipment	574	227
F - Utilities	59	34
G - Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	79	51
Z - Management Costs	215	186
Grand Total	1584	1046

Program Accomplishments

The Public Assistance program has continued its focus on processing the reimbursement of obligated federal funds for 112 program sub-recipients. Over \$347million for Hurricane Maria and \$2.1 million for Hurricane Irma has been processed across government and non-profit entities during FY 2020.

FEMA-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to local governments in an effort to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration and reduce the loss of life and property in future disasters. The program continues its efforts to build a more resilient Virgin Islands by addressing long-standing issues within the Territory's infrastructure.

HMGP projects must support risk reduction and increase resiliency, eliminate or reduce impact from future hazards, provide a long-term solution, adhere to environmental, historical, and economic policies and be technically feasible and cost-effective.

As a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, approximately \$461.9 million was awarded to the Territory in 2017. FEMA waived the match requirement for the Territory; thus, the

federal government will fully fund all projects. These funds have been made available to the Government of the Virgin Islands, its semi-autonomous agencies, and private non-profit organizations for the development of current and future mitigation projects.

On June 17, 2019, the Office of Disaster Recovery was given operational oversight of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, along with the management of the other disaster recovery funding expected to be obligated to the US Virgin Islands. Currently, Hazard Mitigation has 44 approved and active projects. A total of 37 projects are still pending review by FEMA. In the upcoming year, the HMGP will focus on gaining approval on critical projects.

Program Accomplishments

HMGP has received approval for projects with a total project cost of over \$25 million in the past fiscal year. These approved projects include activities that will provide various mitigation activities that minimize flooding, strengthen critical facilities, residential homes and provide safe rooms in several key locations in the Territory.

HMGP Projects By Type	Approved	Pending
Communication	2	0
Generators	1	7
Wind Retrofit	14	8
Mitigation Strategy	2	0
Safe Room - New Build	0	3
Studies	3	1
Planning	1	1
Road and Drainage Improvement	11	2
Flood	1	3
Building Code Enforcement	1	0
Other	8	9
Acquisition	0	1
Power	0	2
Total	44	37

FEMA HMGP Funding by Disaster	Projects Pending Approval
Hurricane Irma	\$ 177,541
Hurricane Maria	\$ 534,324,661
Grand Total	\$ 534,502,202

Projects under Review

HMGP projects under review include generator and enclosure projects for critical facilities and shelters in addition to multiple retrofit projects for the Department of Humans Services, VI Housing Authority and VI Department of Agriculture.

Allocation Amounts

FEMA HMGP Funding by Disaster	Grant Amount	Project Approve Total Cost	Obligated Amount	Expended Amount
Hurricane Irma	\$ 32,951,711	\$ 33,256,118	\$ 18,563,867	\$ 451,851
Hurricane Maria	\$ 428,927,038	\$ 102,282,020	\$ 50,270,372	\$ 3,453,986
Grand Total	\$ 461,878,749	\$ 135,538,138	\$ 68,834,239	\$ 3,905,837

PROGRAM

FHWA-ER Funding by Island	Obligated Amt.	Expended Amt.
St. Thomas/St. John	\$39,793,080	\$14,400,987
St. Croix	\$18,874,452	\$6,514,798
Grand Total	\$58,667,532	\$20,915,786

FHWA-ER Federal Highway Administration Emergency Repair

The Federal Highway Administration- Emergency Relief Program was designed with the goal of helping communities impacted by natural disasters and other catastrophic events by providing federal funding to repair damaged roads and bridges resulting from an event. This program aims to repair or reconstruct Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands that have suffered severe damage due to these extraordinary conditions. By supplementing the commitment of resources by States, territories, and other Federal agencies, the program helps communities pay for these unusually heavy and unexpected expenses. As a result of the damage wrought by Hurricanes Irma & Maria on the Virgin Islands and following an analysis of the roadway system, the FHWA-ER program has approved funding to repair 98 individual roadways on all three main islands.

Program Accomplishments

Following clearance of debris from the roadway after the storms, a review of the traffic signaling system was completed. It was determined that the repair and replacement of traffic signals at many intersections were eligible through the ER Program. Of the repairs completed to date, 20 traffic signal intersections were rehabilitated and refurbished across multiple areas throughout the Territory while 22 others were replaced entirely. Also, multiple road and drainage repairs, in the vicinity of Brookman Road on St. Thomas, Container Port Road & Veterans Shoreline Drive on St. Croix, and Centerline Road on St. John, were also completed.

Goals for 2020-2021

As other necessary emergency repair projects continue to come online, the Department of Public Works and its partners continue to prioritize and manage those projects which are most critical to ensuring the safety of and providing the infrastructure necessary for the daily commute of our citizens. Additional FHWA-ER Projects are set to begin this year, which includes repairs to the Mafolie Road Retaining Wall on St. Thomas, Fish Bay & Southside Roads on St. John, Midland Road Bridge and Melvin Evans Highway on St. Croix, as well as other federal-aid roads throughout the Territory.





Mafolie Road Retaining Wall, St. Thomas

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

CDBG-DR



"The Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG - DR) program administered by the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) is making significant progress on the road to recovery here in the territory. The Authority has issued notices to proceed to several subrecipients, which allows procurement and the hiring of contractors to commence work on many critical recovery projects. The VIHFA has also begun working on the CDBG-Mitigation Action Plan which will bring another \$774 million of Federal Funds to the Territory. The mitigation grant has a 12 year expenditure deadline and is critical to the USVI's recovery because it will provide long-term resiliency for the community to mitigate against future disasters, not limited to hurricanes. The VIHFA's staff has grown by more than 200%—a true reflection of the magnitude of this federal grant. The team remains committed to a strong recovery and the full expenditure of all funds in compliance with HUD guidelines. The hurricanes devastated the islands in 24 hours. Unfortunately, it will take years for the Territory to recover but with the assistance provided by the Federal Government, the Virgin Islands will be a more resilient and stronger community than it was in the past."

Daryl Griffith

Executive Director
V.I. Housing Finance Authority

Overview

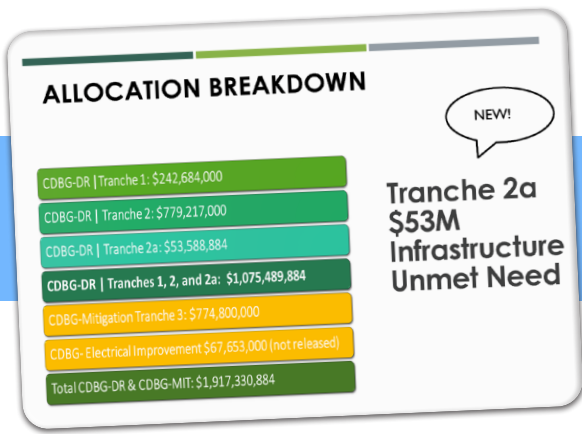
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) **Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery** (CDBG-DR) program provides funding for unmet needs after Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds, insurance, and other federal or private sources are accounted for, with a focus on the needs of low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents and businesses.

The funds are administered 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 Program (CDBG-DR). The CDBG-DR Action Plan proposes a portfolio of programs to address unmet housing, public service, infrastructure, and economic needs.

Allocation Status

HUD has awarded a total of \$1.9 billion to be allocated to the Territory in now five tranches. Tranche 1, Tranche 2, and the Supplemental Appropriation must be spent within six years of the signed grant agreement, which was executed on September 27, 2018. Most recently, HUD has granted all disaster recovery grantees a one (1) year extension and a possible additional year extension with supporting data from the grantees as a result of COVID-19.

Supplemental Appropriation: HUD developed a reassessment of Infrastructure unmet needs. VIHFA is developing the Substantial Amendment to allocate \$53,888,884 to infrastructure-related activities. The plan is scheduled to be submitted for public comment in September 2020 and submitted to HUD in October 2020.



Tranche 1: Was approved by HUD on July 10, 2018, for \$242,684,000.

Tranche 2: Was approved on March 1, 2019, for \$779,217,000.

Tranche 3 - CDBG Mitigation: The third allocation for mitigation – VIHFA hired a contractor by the name of Tetra Tech to assist in the development of the risk analysis and the Mitigation Action Plan. Several town hall meetings were conducted over the 2020 summer months to inform the public on the availability of the mitigation funds and to gather their input as to the needs of the Territory as it relates to identifying the Territory disaster risk. The funding available for mitigation totals \$774,180,000. The plan is scheduled to be submitted for public comment in September 2020 and submitted to HUD in October 2020.

Tranche 4 - Electrical Grid: A fourth allocation for the electrical grid improvements – specific funding is anticipated in early 2021 for \$67,000,000.

The U.S. Virgin Islands’ Disaster Recovery Action Plan details how the Territory intends to utilize the HUD grant funds on eligible disaster recovery activities. The current Disaster Recovery Action Plan, which was approved by HUD on March 1, 2019, can be found at: <https://www.vihfa.gov/disaster-recovery/action-plan>.

Any funding changes greater than 1% of the total Disaster Recovery allocation or any change in the designated beneficiaries of a program constitutes a substantial amendment and must be made available for review by the public and approved by HUD.

The proposed Disaster Recovery Action Plan Amendment 2 is being published for public comment from August 27, 2020, to September 27, 2020. During that time, the document will be available on the VIHFA website for review, and public hearings will be held.

Economic Revitalization Programs

The CDBG-DR Economic Revitalization recovery programs are designed to address unmet needs in the local workforce, showcasing to the world that “we’re open” for business, and stabilize and support our infrastructure with improvements to our ports that will generate long-standing economic growth for the Territory. The Economic Revitalization program offers funding to the following agencies: The Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority, Department of Tourism, Virgin Islands Port Authority and Department of Labor.



Economic Development Authority
Funding: \$319,000

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) is proposing the creation and implementation of a VISION 2040 Plan. Vision 2040 is proposed as a 20-year long-term economic recovery and development plan intended to foster an opportunity for the USVI to become a more resilient and prosperous territory.

Currently, EDA is undergoing contract negotiations for the VISION 2040 project, and it is anticipated that a contract will be executed in September. This plan will take approximately one year to be developed and completed. The goal is to ultimately have a plan in place that will provide the means for sustainable economic resiliency for the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Department of Tourism

Funding: \$10,000,000

The U.S. Virgin Islands' economy experienced catastrophic losses as a direct result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Based on the analysis of aggregated loss statistics over three years following September 2017, an estimated \$1.5 billion is expected solely in lost tax and government revenue, and \$7.5 billion is anticipated in total hurricane-related damages.

Efforts to revitalize tourism in the Territory face an additional critical challenge, overcoming the perception that the Territory's leisure and hospitality industry is closed for business following the 2017 hurricanes.

VIDOT will administer a robust marketing campaign to showcase the USVI's vast tourist assets as they come back online. To achieve this goal, VIDOT will be procuring a marketing firm to promote the Territory.

VIDOT and DPP have since completed their bid evaluations, and a vendor has been selected to create a marketing campaign for the Territory. A final contract is anticipated end of September.

It should be noted that the Territory received a waiver of two years by HUD to have the marketing campaign developed showcasing the USVI. However, COVID-19 slowed down the progress that was being made to roll out this initiative. For this reason, VIDOT has asked for an extension to roll out this much needed and critical project pending HUD approval.

from outside the Territory, thereby increasing costs and decreasing much-needed job opportunities for residents. The Department of Labor seeks to address this shortage of skilled labor by training low to moderate-income individuals. Individuals will be trained in areas such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical. They will also be able to earn a certification in their area of interest that will lead to permanent job placements for the future. This project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

The challenges imposed with DOL to get their initial application completed over the past year has seen a shift from two applications to now a single application that will combine the skills training programs and the on the job program. DOL indicated in June 2020, their need to hire a contractor to manage their projects through a Project Manager due to their lack of capacity. Technical assistance has been ongoing with DOL to get the application to its final stage. It is anticipated that DOL will complete the revised CDBG-DR application by the end of August, which will result in a Notice to Proceed by September.



Virgin Islands Port Authority

—Charlotte Amalie Harbor Funding: \$23,000,000

As a direct result of Hurricanes Irma & Maria, the Virgin Islands Port Authority suffered approximately \$85 million in damages to its ports.



Department of Labor

Funding: \$10,000,000

The immediate workforce needs of the recovery and rebuilding initiatives in the Territory represent a challenge and opportunity with the potential to benefit hundreds of residents across the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Territory saw contractors employ labor

Infrastructure Programs

The suite of Infrastructure Programs designed through the VIHFA Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan addresses multiple unmet needs for the proper functioning of its infrastructure systems. Reliance on these systems, including energy, transportation, and telecommunications, was evident when many failed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The Territory has created three (3) Infrastructure Programs: Local Match for Federal Disaster Recovery; Infrastructure Repair & Resilience; and Electrical Power Systems Enhancement and Improvement.



Local Match for Federal Disaster Recovery Program

Funding: \$168,805,950

The U.S. Virgin Islands has developed the Local Match for Federal Disaster Relief Program (Match Program) to provide the cost-share for CDBG-DR eligible projects. The U.S. Virgin Islands intends to use 17.5% of the first and second tranche of the CDBG-DR program funds for the local match requirement for federally funded projects tied to the disaster.

Infrastructure Repair and Resilience Program

Funding: \$305,000,000

Damage to the public networks and facilities for energy, transportation, communications, potable water, education, and health and safety was extensive. To return infrastructure to industry standards, permanent repair and reconstruction work is needed, adding up to a current estimate of \$4.9 billion. The cost of repair and reconstruction is likely to increase as the full extent of the damage to infrastructure is assessed.

Under the Infrastructure Repair and Resiliency Program, CDBG-DR funds were allocated for two Department of Public Works Highway Improvement Projects in Tranche 1: the Donoe Bypass Improvement Project (Donoe) on St. Thomas and the Northside Highway Improvement Project (Northside) on St. Croix. The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority VIWMA was allocated \$75,000,000 CDBG-DR funds in Tranche 2.



Street Address Initiative (SAI)

Funding: \$5,300,000

In Year 3, the Lieutenant Governor's Office (LGO) began development for the Street Address Initiative (SAI) Infrastructure CDBG-DR Project Application. Specifically, LGO will be developing a street addressing system and conducting a pilot study that will test methods for assigning address numbers throughout the Territory. The SAI will ultimately create a street address for every home, business and building within the US Virgin Islands.

The Donoe Bypass, Highway 39 and 40 is a two-mile (estimated 11,100 linear feet) stretch of road that serves as a heavily used route through the center of the island of St. Thomas. This project will provide drainage along the roadway, reducing roadway flooding and erosion along the mainline and into the neighborhoods downstream that were severely impacted. Once the drainage is controlled and channeled, this will reduce and mitigate against future damage. The WAPA undergrounding component of the project will combine their FEMA PA work in Phase 3 to underground electrical utilities from the intersection of route 39 and route 40 and encompass the Annas Retreat and Tutu neighborhood and commercial districts.

The CDBG-DR Project agreement for the design was approved on April 23, 2020, for \$2,450,000. A Notice to Proceed-1 was issued on April 24, 2020.

On June 25, 2020, DPW/DPP advertised the Proposal for A/E Design Services with a due date of August 24, 2020.

The Northside Road

The project will fund improvements to Northside Highway between Centerline Road and the intersection of Northside Road, Contentment Road and King Street (approximately 6.5 miles, or 34,300 linear feet), as part of a coordinated project to make improvements to the road for resilience, increase the drainage capacity and to harden the roadway to make it more resilient in the event of future disasters.

The CDBG-DR Project agreement for the design was approved on April 23, 2020, for \$3,100,000. A Notice to Proceed-1 was issued on April 24, 2020.

On June 29, 2020, DPW/DPP advertised the Proposal for A/E Design Services with a due date of August 28, 2020.

Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority

The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) was allocated \$75 million CDBG-DR funds in Tranche 2. VIWMA has several projects, including the construction of up to seven (7) convenience centers territory-wide, two (2) EPA mandated landfill closures and two (2) new landfill construction and expansions on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Draft applications have been submitted but are being revised because the landfill projects are being considered for funding in Tranche 3, CDBG-MIT. If approved, VIWMA will be allocated approximately \$22 million for convenience centers (design and construction) and waste shredders. Funding for the landfill closures, construction and expansion would be allocated in the CDBG-MIT program if the projects are deemed eligible.

Electrical Power Systems Enhancement and Improvement Program

Funding: \$135,000,000

The main objectives of the Electrical Power Systems Enhancement and Improvement Program (Electrical Power Program) will be to invest in optimizing the generation mix, improving asset productivity, and providing more sustainable, more reliable, and more cost-effective energy for the U.S. Virgin Islands. To achieve these goals, WAPA will need to deliver several projects across the different areas of investment.



Generation is a major determinant of both the cost and performance of the electrical power system in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Similar to other remote areas, the Territory's primary sources of electricity are combustion and steam turbines powered by fuel, oil, or propane, which must be shipped to the island and kept in storage facilities owned by third-party providers. The Electrical Power Program will help to reduce the Territory's dependence on oil and propane by allowing for projects that replace existing, conventional generator units with advanced, high-efficiency technologies or build new capacity with more advanced technologies.

Following the execution of the sub-recipient agreement, VIFHA approved CDBG-DR stand-alone grant for \$95,678,330 from Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 for VIWAPA's Randolph Harley Power Plant (RHPP) New Generation Project, which consists of installing proven conventional technology with a power generating capacity of 36-40 megawatts (MW) in incremental blocks of no greater than 10 MW each.

VIWAPA selected Wartsila NA as the contractor through an RFP process. The parties executed a contract on June 30, 2020 for \$74 million. The start of the project is pending a notice to proceed from VIWAPA, pending the Authority's compliance with HUD and VIFHA mandated conditions.

The projected completion date for the project is estimated to be December 31, 2022.

WAPA's Strategic Transformation Plan

The plan builds from 3 major themes which reflect the challenges WAPA faces.

Key initiatives have been developed to address each theme with the ultimate goal of firmly positioning The Virgin Islands as a robust leader in energy sector innovation.





2020 PROGRESS REPORT

TOP PRIORITY PROJECTS



CEO Dyma Williams leads Congressional Representatives on tour of the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, in spite of weathering multiple tropical storms, hurricanes and contending with the challenges of COVID-19, the Territory has made significant recovery progress in the priority areas set around Housing, Health & Hospitals, Roads, Schools and Utilities.



Building Back to Higher Standards

Since the 2017 hurricane season, Congress has passed several new laws that include special provisions critical to the U.S. Virgin Islands' recovery, most importantly the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA) and the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA).

BBA

Signed by the President on February 9, 2018, the BBA made sweeping changes to the Stafford Act for Hurricane Maria disasters (USVI and Puerto Rico only), enabling FEMA to: replace or restore the function of a facility or system to industry standards without regard to the pre-disaster condition of the facility or system; and replace or restore components of the facility or system not damaged by the disaster where necessary to fully effectuate the replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged components to restore the function of the facility or system to industry standards. Over the past year, FEMA released two important revised policy documents that inform application of the BBA provisions: Implementing Section 20601 of the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act through the Public Assistance Program FEMA

Recovery Policy F.P.- 104-009-5 Version 2 (September 11, 2019) and Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (Section 428) Permanent Work Guide FEMA-4340-DR-VI (February 10, 2020).

Accomplishment:

FEMA has now approved USVI-specific Industry Standards submitted by the Territory in six of the seven critical services sectors allowed under the BBA, including Healthcare Facilities, Schools, Water, Wastewater, Communications and Emergency Services. WAPA is still evaluating the need for a USVI-specific industry standard for power.

DRRA

Signed by the President on October 5, 2018, the DRRA contains fifty-six distinct provisions applicable to the Stafford Act. Most important to USVI recovery is the requirement to establish national standards (as opposed to the BBA, which was specific only to the USVI and P.R.) for rebuilding critical infrastructure for six facility types: buildings, electric power, roads, bridges, potable water and wastewater.

FEMA issued its interim policy in late 2019 as Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards for Public Assistance FEMA Recovery Interim Policy F.P.- 104-009-11 Version 2.1 (December 20, 2019). The major effect of this policy is that the Territory was no longer restricted to using only codes and standards formally adopted prior to the disaster. The Territory has opted in to using the DRRA Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards as required by FEMA policy and has signaled an intent to utilize these on 703 projects.

Accomplishment:

Since the Territory already has FEMA-approved, USVI-specific BBA Industry Standards for some of these sectors, the main benefit will be in the Roads sector. Under this policy, the VI Department of Public Works will be allowed to rebuild all storm-damaged roads to the Federal Highway Administration's FP-14 standard, a major enhancement for the transportation system.

161 TO 168

NO
TRESPASSING
Residential Property





"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

HOUSING

Virgin Islands Housing Authority

Replacement of Public Housing and Redevelopment of Affordable Housing

VIHFA continues to work closely with the VIHA to identify a strategy for effective redevelopment and replacement of storm-damaged public housing units throughout the Territory. While VIHA had been in advanced discussions with HUD on strategies for replacing aging housing developments, the damages wrought by the storms accelerated the need for new public housing communities. The Housing Authority continues to operate against its overarching strategic vision to weave together both federal and private funding in the hopes of redeveloping over 1,500 units throughout the Territory. This strategy represents an over \$800 million investment over ten years that seeks to reduce community density while prioritizing care and housing for the aged.

Conceptual designs for the first phase of this strategy continues for the redevelopment of over 530 units at the former Estate Tutu Apartments, Walter I.M



Public & Affordable Housing Program

Hodge Pavilion, William's Delight Villas, and Ralph deChabert Housing Community. With regards to Walter I.M. Hodge Housing, VIHA is focusing its designs on the redevelopment of the entire community, given anticipated funds from federal recovery partners and tax credits. Additionally, VIHA has held numerous Resident/Community Stakeholder Meetings to discuss the redevelopment strategy for Tutu Phase I – Estate Donoe and Tutu Phase II & III – Master Plan. With \$61 million of FEMA Public Assistance funds obligated in January 2020 for the Estate Tutu Replacement Project, VIHA has since awarded the construction contract to demolish the five (5) buildings within Estate Tutu. Demolition, which mobilized September 2020, is slated to be completed by April 2021. The next steps outlined by VIHA will be to invest \$15 million for the Tutu Phase I- Estate Donoe Redevelopment Project and \$37.4 million for Phase II & III on the existing Tutu North and Tutu South sites.

Implementation of phase two awaits the release of the CDBG-DR Tranche II allocation. VIHA continues to work with VIHFA to complete the necessary applications as phase two accounts for the redevelopment of an additional 414 units across five housing communities. Both phases represent a \$190 million investment between the Territory, federal recovery partners and selected developers.

This program intends to enable the development of rental housing through the rehabilitation and development of affordable and mixed-use rental housing, including acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation and new construction, as it pertains to the development of project-based subsidized and affordable units for LMI individuals. Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) and the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) are identified applicants with financing also available to participating developers.

The program received and reviewed applications for the following projects during FY 2020:

Walter IM Hodge (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

Approved Funding: **\$5,000,000**



Description: This project will rehabilitate 71 vacant units (fifty-two (52) three-bedroom units and nineteen (19) two-bedroom units) to assist families displaced from the 2017 hurricanes and low-income families being relocated due to extensive damages and the need to make other low-income housing communities more hurricane-resilient.

The plan for this community has changed. VIHA has decided to redevelop the entire community through the expected receipt of tax credits, CDBG-DR and FEMA funds. The Vacant Unit Rehab project that

had previously been approved is at a standstill. The program is awaiting a revised application from VIHA that would indicate the scope and updated project timelines. A duplication of benefits certification was shared for completion with the submission of the revised application.

Donoe Redevelopment (STT)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

Proposed Funding: **\$10,000,000**

Description: The project is a proposed 80-unit affordable rental community in St. Thomas, USVI. In 2018, the Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) issued an RFP for the disaster recovery and redevelopment of public housing utilizing a mixed-finance, mixed-income approach of five public housing properties: two located on St. Thomas; and three located on St. Croix, in efforts to replace the 700 units that have been destroyed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The revised application has been received and is awaiting the final duplication of benefits certification for inclusion with supporting documents. The Tutu Relocation plan is also needed to clearly explain the use of FEMA funds that have been allocated for the redevelopment of Tutu Apartments destroyed during the 2017 storms. The redevelopment and rehousing of the dispersed Tutu residents will occur in different communities across the island of St. Thomas.

Estate Ross Taarneberg (STT)

Approved Funding: **\$2,970,500**

Description: This project will consist of a mixed-use building in a well-developed area on the island of St. Thomas. The three-storied office building with commercial bays will allow for eight fair-market rate rental units on the 3rd floor. It will also contribute to workforce development housing to support the needs of medical professionals who work in proximity at the Governor Roy Lester Schneider Medical Center.

The procurement for the Phase I environmental is currently underway for the completion of the environmental review. Upon receipt of approval to use grant funds, a Notice to Proceed will be issued.

Magens Junction Phase 2 (STT)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

Approved Funding: **\$3,500,000**

Description: This project includes the construction of 60 new construction, low-income tax credit rental apartments that are contained in a nine-story building with ground floor amenity space. The unit mix includes thirty (30) one-bedroom, one-bath apartments and thirty (30) two-bedroom, two-bath apartments. The development is financed with Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity, developer's equity and CDBG-DR funding.

The first payment request was successfully processed, and payment disbursed to the developer during the month of July 2020 in the amount of \$3,325,000.00 with closing having occurred during March 2020. Currently, construction continues to progress at the site. The project's anticipated completion is December 2020.

Croixville Preservation (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

Proposed Funding: **\$6,930,000**

Description: This is a proposed 80-unit low-income tax credit rehab project located on the western end of the island of St. Croix. The community suffered damages as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and saw vacancies rise as a result of the damage. The development will be financed with Low-Income Housing Tax Credit equity, developer's equity and CDBG-DR funding.

The application was received in May 2020. The first review has been completed, and the program is set to provide the developer with feedback for revisions for a second review and finalization of the application and the budget.





Public Housing Revitalization

The CDBG-DR program is working with VI Housing Authority to assist in the reconstruction of existing communities that were damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Williams Delight Villas (STX)

VIHA will rehabilitate approximately 100 existing single-family units with improvements to allow for Homeownership sales pursuant to HUD's 5H Homeownership Plan.

John F. Kennedy Terrace Redevelopment (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

New construction of 100 family units.

Wilfred Pedro: Phase I – Stony Ground, (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

New Construction of 123 units on the western part of the island of St. Croix.

D. Hamilton Jackson I & Alphonso "Piggy" Gerard Basin Triangle (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

Rehabilitation of 136 units located in Christiansted, St. Croix.

New Tutu Phase 2 (STT)

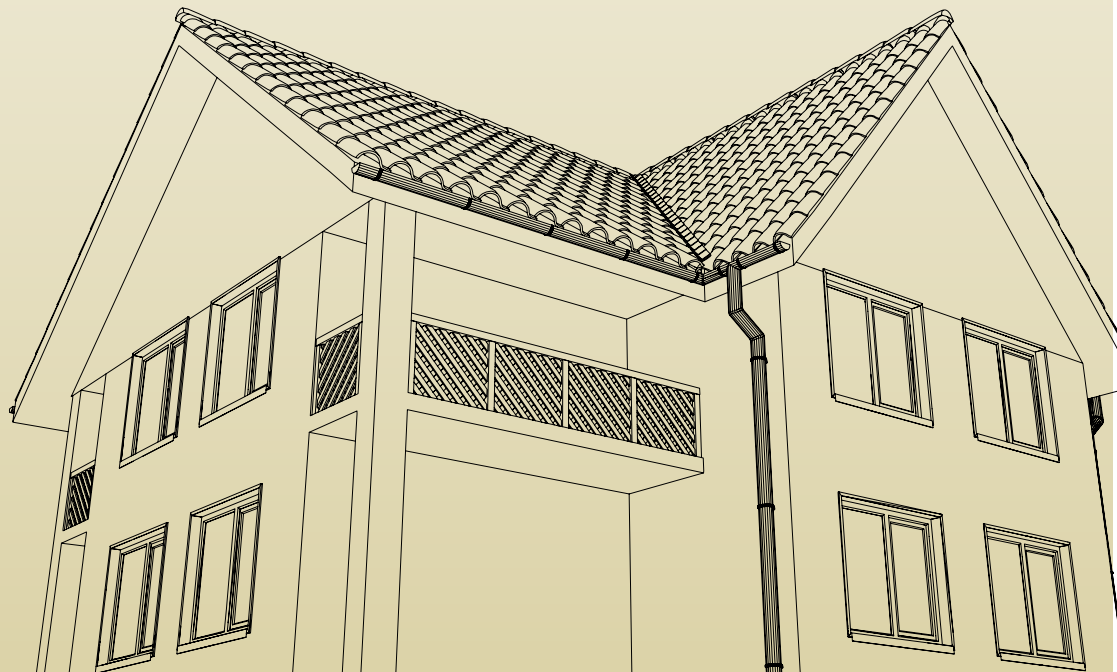
(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

New Construction of 120 units on the island of St. Thomas.

Marley Homes (STX)

(Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program)

New construction of 100 units.





EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM UPDATE

The Emergency Home Repair Virgin Islands (EHRVI) Program Phase 1 and Phase 2 concluded on April 15, 2019. Under STEP Legacy Phase 1, 6,560 homes received temporary home repairs, and under the Permanent Roofing Program, STEP Phase 2, 1,648 homes received permanent roofing repairs for a total cost of \$818 million.

To date, \$442 million has been submitted to FEMA, of which \$347,979,021 has already been paid. VIHFA has paid a total of \$16,509,832 in gross receipts to the Bureau of Internal Revenue on behalf of the contractors. All remaining invoices totaling \$336 million were submitted to FEMA in June.

Housing Programs

Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

The CDBG-DR housing programs will prioritize the most vulnerable Virgin Islanders, especially those who remain displaced or living in severely damaged homes after the 2017 hurricanes. The Territory will further prioritize reconstruction for owner-occupied low- and moderate-income households whose homes were either completely destroyed or with major or severe damage with no other resources to complete rehabilitation or reconstruction. The roof repair solution under STEP has drastically reduced the number with unmet needs. Households not eligible for STEP are being evaluated for CDBG-DR funded home rehabilitation or reconstruction.

The Homeowner Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program serves owner-occupied homes that were substantially damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Eligible homeowners will receive assistance to either reconstruct or rehabilitate their home to make it habitable and

compliant with flood plain, environmental and other local requirements. The program was launched in April of 2018. The program offers up to \$250,000 per application for one owner-occupied unit and attached one rental unit.

On September 6, 2019, the Homeowner program finalized version 2 of the policies and procedures. Later that month, a major press conference was held at the Virgin Islands Government House on St. Thomas to introduce the general construction contractors, many of whom are local, that will be working alongside the Homeowner and Rental programs.

In November of 2019, The VI Housing Finance Authority hosted a forum with housing applicants to inform them of the status of the Housing programs. More than 500 applicants attended the public meeting, which was held on all three islands.

Damage Assessments by Armand Corporation began on November 7, 2019, and the Environmental Tier 1 review was approved by HUD on January 8, 2020. Thereafter, the Housing team made a number of public appearances, including radio and talk shows, notably the Recovery in Focus tv show on WTJX.

In January of 2020, evaluations on the fifth round of General Construction Contractor RFQ were completed. The General Construction Contractors Pool is comprised of locally licensed contractors to perform rehabilitation, demolition, reconstruction, mitigation, elevation, and new construction of residential structures damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

As a result of the RFQ, a total of fifty-six (56) contractors, including tradespersons, were placed in the contractor pool:

**48 General Construction Contractors
7 Trade Pool Contractors**

In March 2020, more than 200 ineligible applicants received QA/QC eligibility reviews. These applicants were deemed ineligible mainly because their total household income exceeds the HUD income limits of 120% above the Area Median Income (AMI). Applicants were given the opportunity to appeal the decision made by the program. A request was submitted to HUD, requesting the DR Program to utilize St. John Income limits across all three islands. We are currently awaiting HUD's approval. This approval would potentially allow some clients to move from being ineligible and out of the program to return into the program under the urgent need category.

On March 2, 2020, the first round of mini bids was conducted. Four (4) homeowners proceeded through the mini bid process. In order to move forward in an expeditious manner, the program developed a lottery system with a price matrix.

As of August 2020, the program has received 1,686 applications, 720 applicants have met basic eligibility requirements, and 351 damage assessments have been completed. The number of active construction projects steadily increases as housing continues to be a main priority at the Authority.





Rental Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

The Rental Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program is designed to restore small rental properties damaged by Hurricanes Irma and/or Maria. Rental damage from the storms has a far-reaching impact on the local population, displacing individuals and families, constricting the rental income on which landlords rely, and leaving individuals and families in the sub-par housing stock. The program offers up to \$50,000 per unit for the lesser of 20 units. Round 1 launched on July 1, 2019, and Round 2 launched on May 18, 2020.

Landlords that own homes with 1-20 long-term rental units that require repairs to meet Decent, Safe, and Sanitary (DSS) Standards and meet program eligibility will be assisted in the form forgivable. The loan will be forgiven over a 5 to 15-year period of offering the units as affordable—not exceeding 30% of the household's monthly income—to Low-Moderate Income Households. Landlords can list the properties for rent with the Housing Choice Voucher Program offered through the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, or on the Open Market. The rental rates for both options are not allowed to exceed the HUD Fair Market Rates during the affordability period.

The following services were contracted to fully execute the program:

• **Horne, LLP, Case Management Services**

Assists with intake and application preparation; verification of benefits eligibility; benefit review and award finalization; payment processing; closing and file closeout; development of the Case Management System; and provide Administrative & Document Management Services.

• **Armand Corporation, Construction Management Services**

Assists with Construction Management General Standards, Engineering Blueprints, Damage Assessment Services, Inspection Services.

• **Environmental Services**

Identified below is intended to ensure that Environmental Review, Assessments, and Testing Services are available to aid VIHFA in the analysis of potential environmental impacts.

- **Family Environmental**
- **Hunt, Guillot, and Associates**
- **Tetra Tech**
- **Tysam Tech**

On April 14, 2020, the program received Authorization to Use Grant Funds to pay for eligible costs necessary to complete the repairs for rental units that have not yet been completed, including

eligible improvement for resilience. Reconstruction Program proposes to pay for eligible costs necessary to complete the reconstruction of rental units that were destroyed or determined not feasible for rehabilitation.

As of August 2020, the program has received 293 applications. One hundred seventy-seven (177) of those applications have been classified as closed/inactive projects. The categories for inactive classification are as follows: 29 applicants were non-responsive; 77 were duplicates, 24 withdrew from the program; 17 have property tax delinquencies, and 30 were dispositioned due to other reasons.

One hundred sixteen (116) applications have met the preliminary program criteria. To date, six have been pre-approved and projected to advance to the construction phase.

Within the upcoming fiscal year, the program seeks to repair most of the 300 potential units and start placing them in service to be occupied by low-income tenants. As the Disaster Recovery team approaches the second year of the program, units have been identified as eligible for repair. Once the Environmental Tier II reviews are completed, approvals will be finalized, and adjustments made if mold, asbestos or lead-based paint remediation is required.

All applicants have been formally notified of the financial and affordability commitments associated with the program. Landlords who have been approved for construction are prepared to contribute if additional funds are required in excess of duplicate funds and/or program caps.

New Housing and Infrastructure Construction Program

(Formerly known as the New Construction for Homeownership Opportunity and First-Time Homebuyer Program)

This program will provide funding for direct financial assistance for first-time homebuyers to secure a home in communities being built by the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority. The program will align with the existing first-time homebuyer program administered by the VIHFA.

The Mount Pleasant project will develop seven (7) new single-family homes on St. Croix. The proposed funding for this project is \$1,500,000.

Estate Solitude development will consist of twenty (20) new single-family homes on St. Croix. The application for this project is being updated. A phase I environmental survey is pending completion. The proposed budget for this project is \$40,000,000.

Fortuna Development on St. Thomas will consist of thirteen (13) new single-family homes. The proposed funding for this project is \$4,000,000.



VIHFA- Newly Occupied Estate Solitude Housing, St. Croix





Juan F. Luis Hos



2020

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Health and Hospitals

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past year, in spite of weathering multiple tropical storms and hurricanes and contending with the challenges of COVID-19, the Territory has made significant recovery progress from 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria, including the following highlights.

Building Back to Higher Standards

Since the 2017 hurricane season, Congress has passed several new laws that include special provisions critical to the U.S. Virgin Islands' recovery, most importantly the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA) and the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA).

BBA

Signed by the President on February 9, 2018, the BBA made sweeping changes to the Stafford Act for Hurricane Maria disasters (USVI and Puerto Rico only), enabling FEMA to: replace or restore the function of a facility or system to industry standards without regard to the pre-disaster condition of the facility or system; and replace or restore components of the facility or system not damaged by the disaster where necessary to fully effectuate the replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged components to restore the function of the facility or system to industry standards. Over the past year, FEMA released two important revised policy documents that inform application of the BBA provisions: Implementing Section 20601 of the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act through the Public Assistance Program FEMA

Recovery Policy F.P.- 104-009-5 Version 2 (September 11,

Hospital Temporary Hardened Structure

2019, and Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (Section 428) Permanent Work Guide FEMA-4340-DR-VI (February 10, 2020).

Accomplishments:

FEMA has now approved USVI-specific Industry Standards submitted by the Territory in six of the seven critical services sectors allowed under the BBA, including Healthcare Facilities, Schools, Water, Wastewater, Communications and Emergency Services. (WAPA is still evaluating the need for a USVI-specific industry standard for power.)

DRRA

Signed by the President on October 5, 2018, the DRRA contains fifty-six distinct provisions applicable to the Stafford Act. Most important to USVI recovery is the requirement to establish national standards (as opposed to the BBA, which was specific only to the USVI and P.R.) for rebuilding critical infrastructure for six facility types: buildings, electric power, roads, bridges, potable water and wastewater.

FEMA issued its interim policy in late 2019 as Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards for Public Assistance FEMA Recovery Interim Policy F.P.-104-009-11 Version 2.1 (December 20, 2019). The major effect of this policy is that the Territory was no longer restricted to using only codes and standards formally adopted prior to the disaster. The Territory has opted in to using the DRRA Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards as required by FEMA policy and has signaled an intent to utilize these Restoration of healthcare facilities to the FEMA-approved USVI BBA Healthcare Industry Standard remains among the top priorities for the Territory.

Territorial Hospital System & Clinics

FEMA has already approved full replacement of the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital (JFL) and Charles Harwood Medical Center on St. Croix, and approvals for complete restoration of all components of the Schneider Regional Medical Center – including the Roy L. Schneider Hospital and the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute on St. Thomas and the Myrah Keating Smith Health Center on St. John are expected in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Accomplishments:

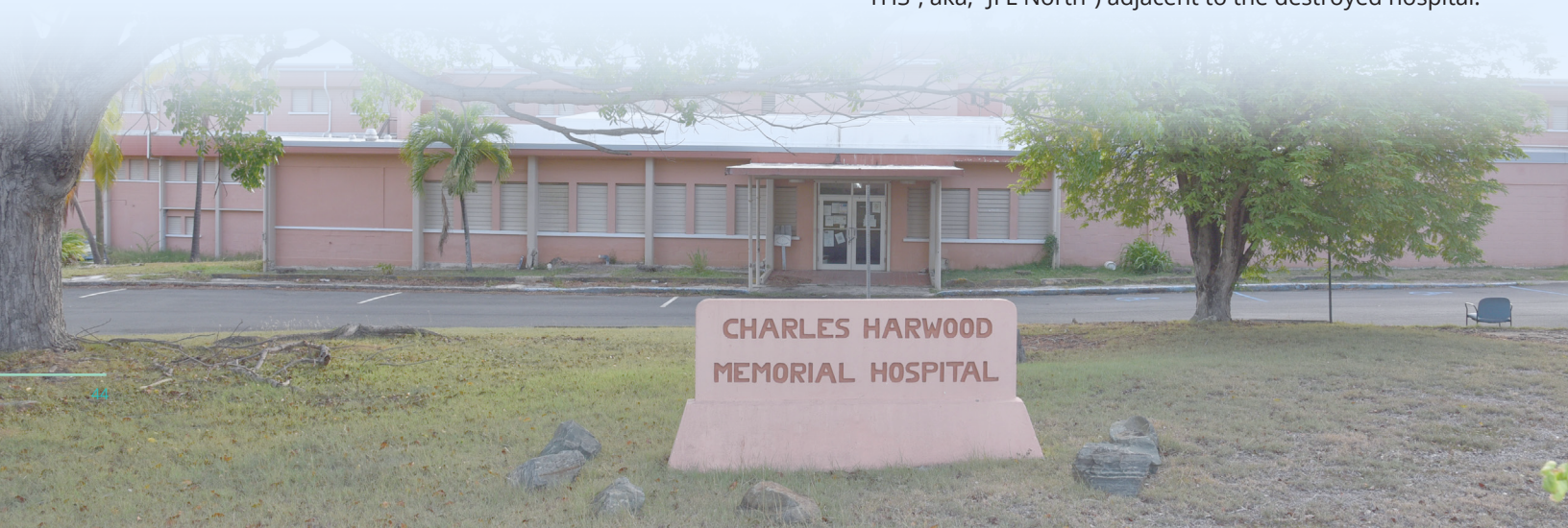
In order to facilitate the development of a fully integrated hospital system and to ensure consistent standards, the Territory-wide Hospital Redevelopment Team (HRT) was established to oversee all design and construction processes for restoring the storm-damaged facilities. As a first step in the accelerated process, the HRT issued a Request for Proposals for architectural services for the design of all hospital facilities. Bids were received on July 17 and contract awards are expected before the end of the year.

In July 2020, FEMA obligated 9 million dollars to the VI DOH to begin the design of the new Charles Harwood Clinic. The solicitation will be issued in September 2020.

Progressing Key Projects

Temporary JFL Hospital (St. Croix)

As a result of Hurricane Maria, Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital suffered significant roof damage, which led to water intrusion throughout the hospital. Due to this, the hospital was effectively destroyed, with a loss of four out of six Operating Rooms, as well as most of the other functional capacity of the hospital. As a means of continuing to provide emergency healthcare services on the Island of St. Croix, the Territory decided to construct a temporary hospital (a Temporary Hardened Structure, or “THS”, aka, “JFL North”) adjacent to the destroyed hospital.



During the past year of the recovery, construction has continued on the 110-bed temporary structure, with the THS now at approximately a 90% completion-level. The overall project continues with 21 stand-alone external sub-projects still underway. These stand-alone sub-projects include the construction of an ambulance ramp, ADA-compliant parking, general storage capabilities, an outpatient radiology center, and other structural projects needed to allow for the wide range of services that will be provided by the THS over its expected five to eight year lifespan until the destroyed hospital is rebuilt from the ground up. Funding is anticipated to be secured from FEMA for the last of these external projects by mid-September.

Internal to the THS, additional projects remain underway as well. Temporary utility connections are anticipated to be installed by mid-September, and internal "FFE" (furnishings, fixtures and equipment) have been ordered and will be installed by the mid-December opening date. Finally, the hospital is currently developing its transition plan, which will allow for a streamlined and orderly relocation of hospital staff, patients, and salvageable equipment once THS construction has been completed.

Department of Human Services - Homes for the Aged

Among the most critical buildings damaged in the hurricanes were the two Homes for the Aged, one each on St. Croix and on St. Thomas, operated by the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS).

For these two particular projects, it was essential that DHS start with a clear roadmap of the long-range plan for each facility. Consistent with the FEMA-approved USVI BBA Healthcare Industry Standard, these two long-term care facilities will be transformed into CMS-certified skilled nursing facilities to enable the elderly to receive state-of-the-art care in the Territory.

Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged (STX)

The existing Herbert R. Grigg Home for the Aged in Kingshill, St. Croix, suffered significant damage from Hurricane Maria, but not to the point of requiring total replacement. As part of DHS's plan, the Home will not only be repaired but also

will be expanded to be a state-of-the-art 80 bed, 68,000 SF skilled nursing facility. DHS will also consolidate its dispersed workforce of 300 performing support services functions to a centralized 45,000 SF modern office building at this same 10-acre hilltop campus.

Significant to the overall site rehabilitation is the renovation of the historic Great House, which will be integrated to house some administrative functions, to better serve the people of the Virgin Islands. Several other smaller historic structures will also be renovated and preserved during the re-development of the property.

Queen Louise Home for the Aged (STT)

The Queen Louise Home for the Aged suffered catastrophic damage from Hurricane Irma, requiring total replacement of the building, although formal approval from FEMA is still pending. As on St. Croix, the plan for St. Thomas is to expand the Home to a state-of-the-art 80 bed, 68,000 SF skilled nursing facility.

The proposed larger facility could not be rebuilt on the existing site in Hospital Ground; therefore, DHS intends to build the new Queen Louise Home for the Aged on a government-owned parcel adjacent to the Roy L. Schneider Hospital, which will enhance the residents' access to medical support as needed. The site is ideally suited to accommodate the four-story Home along with its 80 parking spaces on the elevated East end of the site. Sometime in the future, DOH will develop its planned office building on the Western end of the site.

Accomplishment:

The Herbert Grigg and Queen Louise Homes for the Aged Master Plans were completed on schedule on June 30 after presentations to the general public, the Legislature and the Governor.



2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION





Department of Public Works

The infrastructure of the Virgin Islands is one of the critical drivers impacting both the quality of life for residents and the health of the economy within our Territory. Mandated to plan, construct and maintain our public roads, highways, storm drainage systems, buildings, and transportation systems; DPW was responsible for clearing the roadway infrastructure in the days and weeks following the storms. This allowed for the unhindered movement of critical goods and services to people in immediate need and access to the hardest-hit communities.

While the first two years were dedicated to immediate needs such as debris removal and working alongside FEMA to begin assessing damages caused by the storm; year three primarily focused on getting approval of industry-related standards that would allow the Territory to effectively rebuild roadways in a manner that mitigates future damages as well as the drawing down on reimbursement opportunities agreed upon with the federal government. Much of the reports, pictures and GIS Data were leveraged in discussions and FEMA agreed to reimburse the Territory for subbase replacement of all eligible roads within the Territory. With this agreement, the Territory will be reimbursed for costs associated with funding 12" of subbase, 4" of base, and 4" of surface for all applicable roads – creating a stronger infrastructure better able to withstand future storm damage.

In addition to funding provided through FEMA's Public Assistance Program, the Department of Public Works is also receiving funding from the CDBG-DR Program for two major road projects. Both the Donoe Bypass Road on St. Thomas and the Northside Road on St. Croix sustained significant damage during Hurricanes Irma & Maria and qualified for funding. The Donoe Bypass project will fund improvements as part of a coordinated, multi-agency

effort to make the road more resilient, increase the ability to capture stormwater runoff and to harden the roadway in the event of future disasters. Similarly, The Northside Highway Improvements project will primarily involve design for modifications, repairs and replacement of existing structures, required environmental assessments and will include new sidewalks, drainage and accessibility features/ utility lines as needed. These projects are set to receive upwards of \$10 million dollars in Tranche 1 funding. Additional road projects throughout the Territory will be funded in subsequent CDBG-DR Tranches.

DPW will also be leveraging FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to ensure proper drainage is incorporated into future road projects in an effort to more effectively maintain these roadways. An analysis of the Territory's roadways was completed, which provided insight into areas requiring drainage improvements on all three islands. Within the last year, FEMA approved and DPW began the RFP process for multiple HMGP Projects to include the Hannah's Rest Drainage Improvement & Acquisition, Mahogany Road, Northside Project, Donoe Bypass Project. In addition to this, FEMA has also approved the Smith Bay Road Stormwater Project and the Gallows Bay Drainage Improvement Project with Kick-Off Meetings scheduled for September 2020.

DPW also continues its "One Dig" Utility Coordination Strategy with both public and private partners (including





WAPA, WMA, VINGN, & VIYA) in an effort to continue developing a successful approach for creating a more resilient infrastructure and Territory. Through these efforts, DPW is able to make effective decisions when leveraging resources and prioritizing work to be completed by allowing other partners to complete their undergrounding work before the Department of Public Works completes the final paving of the roadway.

Virgin Islands Port Authority

The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) is responsible for developing, maintaining and securing the ports and their associated facilities for safe and effective use by the people of the US Virgin Islands.

With help from the FEMA Public Assistance Program, the VI Port Authority has completed necessary debris removal activities to clear both facility areas and the waterways for marine transportation. The Authority also continues to work with FEMA PA to identify damages resulting from the storm and develop more resilient and effective facilities that enhance both the resident and visitor experience. To date, FEMA has provided VIPA with \$4,865,761 in federally reimbursable funds for damages and administrative costs associated with completing these repair and replacement projects.

In addition, VIPA was also allocated funding from the CDBG-DR Program administered by the VI Housing Finance Authority for two dredging projects in the St. Thomas/St. John District and one dredging project in the St. Croix District, which will support the Cruise Line Industry in the Virgin Islands. The Charlotte Amalie (WICO Dock) Dredging Project has been approved and a Notice to Proceed will be issued this year. The Crown Bay Dredging Project is still in development and the Gallows Bay Project in St. Croix is being included in the Tranche 3 Action Plan for federal approval.

Similarly to funding provided by FEMA PA, and HUD CDBG-DR, other federal agencies such as the US Economic Development Agency continue to support the VI Port Authority in its efforts to make improvements to both Airports in the Territory. Phase 1 of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Terminal Expansion Project is funded with \$7.3 million from USEDA with an additional \$300 thousand in matching funds coming from VIPA. The first phase of the



project involves a full expansion of the Pre-Clearance Hold Room to more than double the seating capacity and provide for additional enhanced amenities such as portable charging devices, multiple television screens, more hot food concessions, expanded retail shopping options and new restroom facilities. This modernization project kicked off in August 2020 and is expected to be completed within the next 18 months.

On St. Croix, Phase 1 of the Cyril E. King Terminal Expansion Project is funded with \$26.8 million in funding from the USEDA with an additional \$6.8 million in matching funds from the VI Port Authority. The first phase of the CEK Project includes a new Transportation Center, which will house taxi and rental car facilities and provide for long and short term parking. The multipurpose facility will be constructed above the airport's existing parking area to triple the available capacity by creating an additional 611 mixed-use parking spaces. This project is expected to be completed within 18 months of its projected September 2020 start date.



Rendering of Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Terminal



Phase I: Educational Facility Master Plan (EFMP)



In early January of 2020, the VI Department of Education (VIDE) embarked on an ambitious process to develop a Territory-wide Educational Facility Master Plan (EFMP) to guide the future investment of hundreds of millions of dollars of federal recovery funds expected for reconstructing the school system. In addition, the master-planning process was intended to evaluate the benefits of utilizing the FEMA-approved USVI-BBA Education Industry Standard.



2020

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Schools

The first EFMP ever conducted for the Virgin Islands had two primary objectives: 1) to "right-size" the number and types of instructional and support facilities throughout the Territory, and 2) develop a strategic capital improvement plan for new school construction and facility repair/ modernization to maximize the use of anticipated federal funding. In order to leverage the FEMA 428 process, it is critical to have a well-thought-out plan that equitably and efficiently allocates the aggregated funds among the various facilities.

The six-month-long master-planning process involved many collaborative workshops across all three islands, engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders who participated in the creation of a new roadmap for the schools. A VIDE-led team of over 20 planners, architects, engineers and educational consultants synthesized the ideas collected in the workshops and crafted draft plans that underwent further refinement through the comment period allotted to the hundreds of participating stakeholders. In the end, a consensus plan was developed that will reduce VIDE's overall footprint from 45 facilities to 33, thus reducing maintenance costs and maximizing operational efficiencies.

The EFMP also presented new instructional space program concepts revolving around the 21st Century Learning Concept that most schools are migrating towards. This involves flexible learning spaces and outdoor learning spaces that will be integrated into the modernization and design of new school facilities.

Accomplishment:

The VIDE Educational Facility Master Plan was completed on schedule on June 30, 2020 after presentations to the general public, the Legislature and the Governor.

Phase II: Educational Facility Initial Designs Getting Design Underway

Immediately after the release of the EFMP, VIDE transitioned immediately into the design phase with three critical follow-on tasks:

1) assessment of existing facility conditions and Code compliance, 2) development of an integrated information technology (IT) plan and 3) development of initial scoping documents for five campuses through a process called "Bridging Documents."

Facility Assessments. Twenty instructional campuses slated for repair and modernization will be inspected and detailed scopes of work created to identify and address items for repair, items for modernization, items that are not Code-compliant and building systems and features that may benefit from the application of FEMA-approved education industry standards.

The anticipated outcome of this critical exercise is that there will be:

- more accurate construction cost estimates based upon refined scopes of work;
- maximization of federal funding through the identification of resilience opportunities; and
- finalization of the methodology for implementation of the FEMA-approved USVI BBA Education Industry Standard.



Integrated IT Plan

With the impending implementation of the EFMP for all of VIDE’s facilities, it only makes sense that a similar exercise is undertaken for the backbone of the educational process – the information technology infrastructure and its effective implementation. In regard to the timeliness of this exercise, the learning challenges imposed by the current COVID-19 pandemic have magnified the need for an IT infrastructure that supports the most effective student learning experience, whether face-to-face in a classroom setting or in a virtual environment.

As VIDE prepares to embark on transforming its physical environment to bring its facilities into alignment with 21st century standards, so must it also stand back and assess the state of its critical technology infrastructure, and establish short- and long-range plans to implement a state-of-the-art system to support effective student learning. The Integrated IT Plan will accomplish just that through an in-depth assessment of existing infrastructure and the creation of a master IT plan that addresses networking capacity, internet access, hardware & software recommendations and technical support.

The main benefit to accrue to VIDE from this Integrated IT Plan is potential additional Federal funding to enhance the Territory-wide system; funding which requires such a plan in order to qualify for.

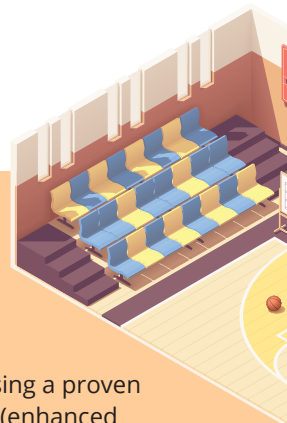
Arthur Richards K-8

In April of 2020, FEMA approved the total “prudent replacement” of the heavily storm damaged Arthur Richards Junior High School on St. Croix in accordance with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

A collaborative process to apply the FEMA-approved USVI BBA Education Industry Standards to the Scope of

Priority

	School Name	Island
1	Arthur Richards K-8	STX
2	Gladys Abraham ES	STT
3	Addelita Cancryn JHS	STT
4	Julius Sprauve ES	STJ
5	Curriculum Center	STT
6	Charlotte Amalie HS	STT
7	Central HS	STX



Bridging Documents

Traditionally, many months will pass after an EFMP is completed and the implementation phase sees any substantial progress that is visible to the community stakeholders. This lag time can severely reduce momentum and community support that may have existed during the planning phase.

To accelerate the recovery process, VIDE is using a proven approach of developing Bridging Documents (enhanced conceptual designs) to kick-start the multi-campus development program. This has enabled design work to start and is expected to reduce the overall project duration by 6-9 months. Over the next 10-months, 30% design plans will be completed for several of the highest priority campuses, including constructability reviews and conceptual cost models to guide VIDE in early design decisions on a campus-by-campus basis.



2020

Work and Cost Estimate for the replacement of all six buildings on the Arthur Richards campus is currently underway and should be completed by the end of September. Based upon the current schedule, FEMA's obligation of the funding for the new Arthur Richards is expected before the end of 2020.

The Territory is hopeful that once this first campus is completed that FEMA approval of the next set of priorities will follow in quick succession.

VIDE awarded a contract for demolition of the Arthur A. Richards K-8 school on September 3, 2020.



Status

Cost Estimate Under Development

Awaiting FEMA Review

Awaiting FEMA Review

Awaiting FEMA Review

Awaiting FEMA Review

Awaiting FEMA Review

Awaiting FEMA Review



UTILITIES

The Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority

The Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority is responsible for operating and maintaining the electric generation, transmission and distribution system, and a water production and distribution system for approximately 55,000 and 13,000 customers, respectively, throughout the Territory. Plagued by capacity issues, the need to transition to more renewable energy sources and the high-level redundancy requirements brought on by the isolated nature of the electrical grids; the system was in a dire state prior to Irma & Maria. With sustained hurricane-force winds of 200+ MPH, the result was more than 90% of above-ground power lines being damaged and more than half of all wooden poles being knocked down. Mechanical failures at pump stations and leaks in tanks and pipelines also impacted water distribution lines throughout the Territory.

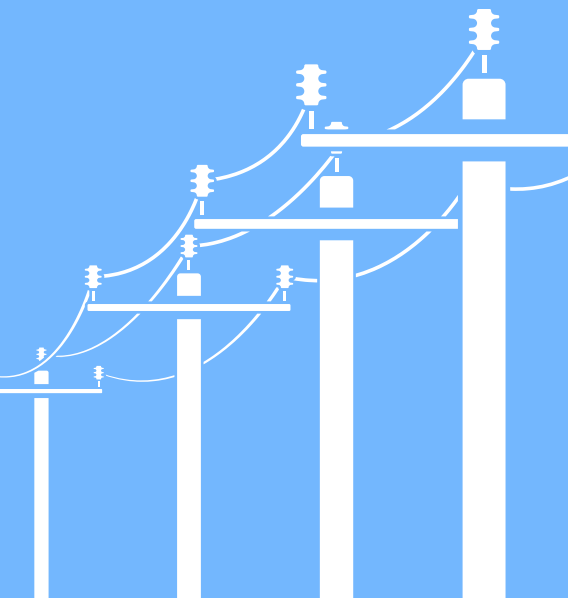
WAPA continues the implementation of its three-pronged Transformation Plan design to position the Authority for success by maximizing eligible disaster recovery funding and operating capital to improve resiliency, increase greater renewable penetration and improve efficiency over the next three to five years.

Improved Resiliency

WAPA's resiliency plan is multifaceted with over \$742 million in mitigation projects (FEMA/HUD-funded) to include:

- a) installation of composite poles;
- b) increased undergrounding capacity;
- c) hardening of infrastructure; and
- d) emergency backup generators.

WAPA continues to work towards its goal of transitioning 50% of customers to underground power with the remaining above-ground connections leveraging composite poles. Undergrounding circuit designs have progressed for sites on all three islands to include undergrounding in Cruz Bay in St. John & Frederiksted in St. Croix and are awaiting final approval by FEMA. Over 2500 composite poles that have been rated for 200 mph winds have been installed across the Territory to date. Installation of composite



"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Utilities



East End Electrical Substation on St. Thomas

poles on Water Island was completed in 2019 with target completion dates for St. Thomas, St. John & St. Croix for late 2021. Once all islands are completed, this territory-wide project will total approximately 7,000 poles installed with FEMA funds covering the roughly \$870 million investment.

WAPA also continues to harden its infrastructure with the awarding of projects like the construction of the new concrete reinforced East End Substation on St. Thomas. This project, like other substation projects, will replace the damaged switchgear in the East End Substation with a gas-insulated switchgear, construct a communications building to house the protection relays and communications devices, install an emergency generator and generator room, and construct a concrete switchgear building to replace the existing aluminum buildings that were ineffective during Irma & Maria. These measures will prevent wind-driven rain from entering the system and causing potential failures in the future.

Accomplishments

VIWAPA completed the restoration of the East End Substation on St. Thomas in July 2020. The project funded by the FEMA through its Public Assistance Program obligated \$9.8 million towards the project's completion.



Haugland Energy Group installs composite poles on St. Thomas.



Improved Efficiency & Generating Capacity:

WAPA plans to increase its generation capacity by adding more efficient and renewable-compatible generators that will allow for the clean-burning of propane as the primary fuel source. The effort is being supported through funding provided by the CDBG-DR Program and will consist of installing proven conventional technology with a power generating capacity of 36-40 megawatts (MW) in incremental blocks from 9-10 MW at the Randolph Harley Power Plant in St. Thomas. Doing this will increase the load capacity for the St. Thomas/St. John District and increase the percentage of renewables powering the system, bringing us closer to renewable energy generation goal of 30% by January 2025.



Water

While the first two years focused primarily on repairing drinking water tanks and repairs to the distribution network, in the third year of recovery, WAPA continues to work on developing a methodology that would allow the Authority to effectively study water pipeline failures. This will allow the Authority to better identify pre and post-hurricane occurrences and create an enhanced capability to identify damages to the distribution lines. Doing so will prevent pressure surges when power is restored that may lead to damages.

In addition to this, WAPA is also working with CDBG-DR to develop applications for connecting 500 previously unconnected residents to the Waterline Extension Projects in both the Smith Bay & Anna's Retreat Communities of St. Thomas. Because many residents rely on cisterns as their primary water supply, the Authority accounts for only half of the Territory's residential household water supply. Based on CDBG-DR's low to moderate income requirements for project funding, WAPA will determine each resident's connection eligibility—once approved, this effort will expand the number of residents within the Virgin Islands that have access to the Authority's clean water supply.



Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority - Solid Waste

In addition to the management of the wastewater infrastructure, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) is also responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of solid waste - serving to protect the public health while preserving the natural environment of our Territory within the process. Prior to the debris generated by Hurricanes Irma & Maria, the Virgin Islands was served by two landfills – Bovoni on St. Thomas & Anguilla on St. Croix- both of which were under consent decrees to cease operations at their current sites and relocate.

As a result of the over 825,000 cubic yards of debris after the storms putting additional strain on landfills already nearing capacity, the need to expedite the process of removing the excess debris and securing new landfill sites has been a top priority. In addition to mulching and composting large quantities of vegetative debris, over 400 vessels required disposal and at least 30 temporary bin sites throughout the Territory needed to be created and consistently cleared as a result of widespread illegal dumping of household waste. To date, FEMA has made 8,536,552 in federally reimbursable dollars available to VIWMA for work completed on debris removal from these temporary debris sites and landfills. An additional \$627,727 was

also obligated to VIWMA to cover the cost of eligible damages to buildings, vehicles and other non-waste infrastructure projects via FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

In addition to funding provided by FEMA PA, the Waste Management Authority is also seeking funding for the Territory's solid waste infrastructure through the CDBG-DR Program administered by the VI Housing Finance Authority. With \$22 million in CDBG-DR Funding being allocated to VIWMA in the Territory's Tranche 2 Action Plan, the Authority has begun prioritizing design requirements for grinding machines and staffed convenience centers, which will be placed in strategic locations throughout the Territory to aid in the proper management of solid waste disposal. Project applications are also being developed for the closure of both the current Bovoni & Anguilla Sites in adherence to the mandate for their closures. The need to open a new site in Estate Pearl on St. Croix and the expansion of the Bovoni Landfill will allow for newly identified sites to be brought into compliance with the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act Sub-Title D Requirements. Simultaneously, the EPA is also supporting the completion of an Integration Plan, which will be leveraged when identifying potential project opportunities that can be financed through the CDBG-DR MIT and FEMA HMGP moving forward.

Accomplishment:

\$22 Million in CDBG-DR Funding has been allocated to VIWMA in the Territory's Tranche 2 Action Plan.



Wastewater

The wastewater infrastructure of the Virgin Islands is comprised of eight wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), 31 pump stations, force mains and the gravity collection network throughout the Territory.

An already fragile system, the wastewater infrastructure was underperforming according to minimum industry standards prior to the storm, and continued to suffer additional damages as a result of the two Cat 5 Storms and torrential rainfall that persisted in the days and weeks that followed. Significant levels of stormwater infiltrated the system during and after the disaster created non-compliance issues of untreated wastewater overflow in multiple locations - requiring the VIWMA to complete immediate and critical repairs to make the system serviceable and begin addressing damages and potential opportunities to make eligible improvements. A thorough inspection and addressing of critical damages, the Authority received \$4,107,345 in reimbursable funding for emergency protective measures related to drain cleaning, temporary facility and line repairs as well as stabilizing multiple portions of the system's infrastructure.

In addition to making critical repairs to make the

system functional, VIWMA continues to work with the FEMA Public Assistance Program to make eligible repairs to damaged facilities, treatment plants and the underground wastewater infrastructure.

To date, the Authority has received \$8,893,894 in reimbursable funding for permanent repairs to the Harold G. Thompson WWTP on St. Croix and the Vessup WWTP on St. Thomas; multiple sewer line repairs throughout the Territory, and to the Baler Transfer Station. With all relevant data available, an analysis of available infrastructure data, non-compliance events and above ground damages was used to develop a framework of Industry Standards that can be leveraged to potentially repair the entire system with appropriations under the Bipartisan Budget Act (2018). With this opportunity, the VIWMA continues to work with FEMA on the review and acceptance of a prudent replacement project for the St. Croix Gravity Sewer System. If approved, the ability to address the wastewater infrastructure on St. Thomas & St. John will become a viable opportunity for the Territory.

COMMUNICATIONS

Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting Station

The Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting Station – WTJX TV & WTJX FM (WTJX) is one of the main utilities and means of public sector communication within the Territory.

In the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, WTJX suffered significant damage across its infrastructure, particularly to its main broadcasting location – The Haypiece Hill Facility Complex. Because the complex housed much of the equipment necessary to effectively broadcast throughout the Territory and was inaccessible after the storms, it became necessary to seek alternative means to reestablish VIPBS' function while their facilities remain compromised. VIPBS identified available space at the Al Cohen's Mall and completed evaluation processes for both Architectural & Engineering Services and Equipment Integration for the temporary facility to be housed at this location. During this process, VIPBS requested and received funding to cover the cost of the temporary facility modifications, equipment and installation and is set to receive a



total amount of \$900,715 in federal reimbursement proceeds.

Concurrently, VIPBS continues to work with federal partners in an effort to fund the replacement and hardening of the Haypiece Facility Complex – the main studio on St. Thomas. These efforts seek to consolidate multiple buildings within the complex into a more practical design that allows for a more resilient facility. In doing so, the system will be better equipped to withstand and provide enhanced capability in sharing public safety information during and after future disasters.

Accomplishment:

The solicitation for the architecture and engineering services for the Haypiece Facility on St. Thomas was released and is currently pending award.

GOVERNMENT HOUSES

The Government Houses of the Virgin Islands, located on each of the three main islands and whose historic architecture and grounds function primarily as offices for the Office of the Governor, supports the daily operations of the Executive Branch of Government to include official, social and cultural events within the Territory. Given the Danish colonial era design of these historic structures, it is imperative that the repairs and restoration of these sites be completed within the State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) national requirements. Adhering to these requirements will not only ensure the preservation of the Virgin Islands' cultural and architectural identity but ensure its physical landscape endures to teach young Virgin Islanders about the history

of our home for generations to come. Hazard Mitigation Proposals have been incorporated into each project, addressing current damages and ensuring these structures are better capable of withstanding future storms and averting potential risks. Once restored, the Government Houses will provide a historical backdrop and space whereby residents, public officials and visitors of all ages can engage with and share in the appreciation of history and continued work of the people and Government of the Virgin Islands. Continuing the repairs on St. Croix Government House, the St. John Battery, Government House St. Thomas, and Catherineberg Museum remains among the top priorities for the Territory.

Progress In Year Three For Government Houses

St. Thomas

The Government House on St. Thomas sustained roof failure and severe damages on the third story - allowing water to completely permeate the entirety of the building. This resulted in the near destruction of the structure and made it uninhabitable for use following the 2017 Storms. The Office of the Governor awarded the construction contract in 2019, and repairs are underway to restore the building to its pre-disaster condition. By preserving its historic character while still incorporating hazard mitigation elements to better protect the structure in the future, the design will include a roof that meets Virgin Islands code requirements and improved storm shutter latches. This project has been obligated at approximately \$2.2 million which includes funding for permanent repair work as well as mold remediation, making the facility safe for all Government House employees and visitors. The Office of the Governor continues to work with FEMA on the obligation of this facility's contents, estimated at an additional \$500 thousand. The anticipated completion date for St. Thomas Government House is April 2021.

St. John

The Government House on St. John, referred to as "The Battery," sustained catastrophic damage following Hurricanes Irma & Maria. High winds resulted in the complete loss of the roof, and the subsequent wind-driven rain caused widespread water damage throughout the facility. Repairs remain focused on roof restoration and interior renovations that will restore The Battery to its original historic character while providing the necessary improvements to endure future severe weather events and future usage of the space for civic engagement. The Battery on St. John is targeting a December 2020 completion date.

St. Croix

There are two Government Houses on St. Croix: The Frederiksted Government House known as the Old Danish School, which sustained limited damage from wind and water intrusion; and the Christiansted Government House - which sustained more extensive damage, including damages to the existing historical replica glass windows and door openings. The scope of work for these projects include both the repair and replacement of damaged window openings with historically appropriate fittings replacements that meet current wind rating requirements. Approximately \$2.1 million for these projects is anticipated to be obligated by the Fall of 2020, which includes the full scope of the storm damages and additional funds for mitigating potential future damages to the historic structures.





Vincent F. Mason Coral Resort Park and Pool



Omar Brown Park

PARKS, AND RECREATION

The Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation (DSPR) is responsible for maintaining public parks and recreational areas throughout the Territory. These facilities are critical to the health and wellness of our Territory because they provide opportunities for social interaction, athletic recreation and community engagement for both children, adults and our senior citizens. DSPR suffered significant damages from Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 as many public recreation facilities and parks were damaged and destroyed by wind, flying debris, and heavy rain. DSPR continues to work diligently to restore these critical facilities so that the people of the Virgin Islands have opportunities and safe spaces to practice their crafts, gather and socialize, and so that the Virgin Islands youth have an outlet to drive sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical fitness.

Emile A. Griffith Ballpark



PROGRESS IN YEAR THREE FOR DSPR

During year three, over \$12 Million has been obligated across both FEMA Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) for DSPR projects. Over \$1.4 million was awarded by FEMA PA in May 2020 for the Emile Griffith Park, the most used public park in St. Thomas catering to a wide range of public events as well as youth and adult sports leagues. While the Emile Griffith Park was partially refurbished in 2019 with monies from Carnival Cruise Lines, additional renovations are necessary to restore the park to its fullest functional capacity. These renovations to the baseball field, basketball courts, concession stand, and restrooms are currently in design, with construction expected to begin by March 2021.

The Vincent F. Mason Coral Resort Park and Pool - the only public swimming pool located on the outskirts of Frederiksted town - has been closed since Hurricane Maria after suffering critical damages and safety hazards from severe winds, heavy rainfall, and wave action from ocean surge. The project is moving forward with design and is scheduled to begin construction once final plans have been determined.

A total of \$23.5M has been obligated to DSPR for forty-nine of the Territory's parks & facilities. Construction has already started on Fairchild Park, Emancipation Garden Park, Joseph Aubain Ballpark, Milton Newton Park, and Dorothea Tot Lot Park on St. Thomas.

With FEMA PA funding of over \$1.5 million, design work has begun for refurbishments to the recreational facilities at both Fort Frederik Beach in Frederiksted

and Cramer's Park on the east end of St. Croix, and construction is scheduled to be complete by Spring 2021. DSPR was also awarded over \$2.6 million through FEMA HMGP for the retrofit of the St. John Community Center. The new multi-purpose community center will be retrofitted for use as a shelter and safe room designed to withstand hurricane-force winds. Plans for the proposed site include a recreation room, vocational center, study hall, computer lab, office spaces, and an outdoor play area for after school and summer camp programs.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The U. S. Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (USVIEDA) is responsible for the promotion and enhancement of economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Having suffered significant damages to their offices located in Frederiksted's historic Fleming House, the repairs became critical to ensuring EDA's ability to maintain its economic development efforts and preserving the architectural history of Freedom City, St. Croix. Through FEMA Public Assistance, USVIEDA was obligated \$365 thousand to renovate and restore Fleming House to its pre-disaster condition, ensuring its historic façade is maintained to meet historic preservation requirements. The Frederiksted community can look forward to construction beginning in 2021.



Emile C. Berry Firestation

police stations received damage to roofs, windows, doors, fencing, mechanical and electrical equipment, flooring, and interior components to the facilities. To address these critical repairs, the VIPD continues to work with FEMA to fully identify any additional work necessary to bring the properties up to current industry standards while providing safe, secure operational space for VIPD personnel in their daily activities and future events. Through FEMA HMGP, VIPD was awarded \$285,250 for the Leander Jurgen Command Hurricane Wind Retrofit Project in an effort to mitigate the risks associated with hurricane winds and wind-driven rain.

Most importantly, these improvements will safeguard the lives of first responders in the event of a disaster and secure the continuity of critical functions of the Virgin Islands Police Department. VIPD is also awaiting FEMA HMGP's approval of approximately \$28.7 million in funding for the Patrick Sweeney Police Station. Parallel to these buildings, the territory-wide Community Security Surveillance Camera project was heavily damaged during the storms and VIPD continues to work with FEMA to secure the replacement of the entire network, which is anticipated to total more than \$2 million in additional funding.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Virgin Islands Police Department

Virgin Islands Police Department facilities across the Territory received varying but significant levels of damage – creating difficulties in our ability to respond and function longterm following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Multiple

Leander Jurgen Command



Virgin Islands Fire Service

The Virgin Islands Fire Service (VIFS) is managed through ten operational fire stations, four facilities on St. Thomas, four on St. Croix and two on St. John. While all ten facilities were damaged during the storms, VIFS is seeking replacement through FEMA PA for two stations on St. Thomas, two stations on St. Croix, and two stations on St. John. The Charles "Tappy" Seales (Grove Place) Fire Station is the first station within the Territory FEMA HMGP has approved for hurricane wind retrofit upgrades totaling \$4.9 million. Through an agreement with VIPD, the facility will also include the



footprint of the Weed and Seed Program. Design work began in Summer 2020 for the Charles Seales Fire Station, and design work has also been approved for the Emile C. Berry and Emile Henderson Fire Stations via obligations of over \$763 thousand through FEMA HMGP this year. Infrastructure updates and repairs will also be made to the Herbert L. Canegata (Richmond) Fire Station, which was awarded \$639 thousand in mitigation funds to renovate all three buildings in accordance with the 2018 International Building Code.

VIFS continues to work with FEMA to secure funds for the repairs and replacement of damaged stations and equipment across the Territory. Thus far, VIFS has secured approximately \$8 million from both FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation for the repairs, retrofits, and replacement of damaged stations and equipment. While reconstruction of the facilities will require comprehensive design and engineering services, repairs on existing facilities continue to progress toward design completion and construction. Until these facilities can be repaired and upgraded as agreed to, all stations have continued to remain operational in services to their respective communities.

Emergency Management Centers

The Territory continues to work closely with FEMA to secure the necessary funding to address the critical repairs to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) buildings on St. Thomas and St. John. The Territory's portfolio of EOC's was critically damaged, and these facilities now require extensive repair. The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) anticipates FEMA funds to be obligated by the end of 2020 to address the repairs for both the St. Thomas and St. John EOC Facilities.

Housed in separately leased buildings – both of which received extensive damage; St. Croix's EOC and Emergency Command Center (ECC) is critical to the Territory's response to future disasters. To appropriately serve the emergency response needs of the Territory, a new facility location was identified and \$22 million obligated for the development of a new state of the art EOC on St. Croix. To better facilitate the cross coordination efforts necessary to effectively manage a response, the Bureau of Information Technology (BIT) will also relocate their offices to this new facility - ensuring the merger of emergency response and telecommunication systems throughout the Territory. With design and architectural work for the new facility starting in February 2020, the Territory has followed up with FEMA to approve expanding the facility's footprint for reconstruction. Designs are currently underway and slated to be completed by 2021, with construction to begin shortly after.

Another critical component of the Territory's emergency management network- the Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) - received catastrophic damage on all three islands. Of the 44 TEWS sites throughout the Territory, 15 were destroyed. Based on the \$1.6 million in reimbursement funding obligated by FEMA, VITEMA selected a vendor to complete the repair, replacement, and upgrade of the existing infrastructure for the TEWS network. The vendor has started to procure equipment, and the system is expected to be fully operational in 2021.



2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Rebuilding Lives, Engaging, and M



PRIVATE NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

Recovering from Hurricanes Irma and Maria is a tremendous undertaking that requires an “all hands on deck” approach. The support of the Territorial Long-Term Recovery Partners has been invaluable towards developing a comprehensive framework to ensure all members of the community have timely access to disaster recovery resources that meets their individual needs.

ST. CROIX Long Term Recovery Group

The St. Croix Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working within St. Croix.

Rebuilding Lives One Home at a Time!

This year, three homes were completed with the 12 remaining on-island volunteers before the end of May. In the past two years, the construction team has had amazing success, completing 53,696 total volunteer hours and repairs on 73 homes. At the end of 2019, FEMA discontinued the use of “invitational travel” for volunteer teams, requiring teams to pay for their transportation to the island. By the end of June, the construction team dismantled, and the Disaster Case Managers are resourcing other on-island alternatives to continue assisting residents with repairs.

Disaster Case Management

The LTRG served 70 cases in the last year—a total of 218 since the inception of the program. The average length of program stay remains around 12 – 18 months. Although clients with smaller needs such as appliances, windows, doors, and re-tarping have been served within two to five months, this is offset by those waiting 12 – 20+ months for major repairs through STEP, the Permanent Roof Program, EnVlision Tomorrow, or the St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group Unmet Needs funding.

Nurturing Resilience

The Virgin Islands Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VI VOAD)

In December of 2019, the VI VOAD officially re-launched. The goal of this group is to fully unite the efforts of the Long-Term Recovery Groups on each island.



ST.THOMAS Recovery Team

The St. Thomas Recovery Team (STRT) serves as the Long-term Recovery Group (LTRG) on St. Thomas.

Client-Centered Irma and Maria Recovery

The STRT worked with skilled volunteer rebuilders on active cases until late February 2020. While volunteers were present on island, the STRT served 12 households, closed three cases, and held another Final Nail ceremony. Disaster Case Managers (DCMs) have also consistently continued their weekly meetings to coordinate with other case managers on St. Thomas. In late April, the VI Government issued a 'Stay at Home' order. STRT DCMs have stayed in regular communication with their clients to continue supporting them through several other routes toward their personal recoveries.

Year-Round Hurricane Preparedness

In 2018 and 2019, the STRT used March through June to focus on hurricane preparedness educational outreach and donation drives. As usual, during this time, the STRT worked with partner organizations within the VIVOAD to update assets outlined on the STRT Community Response Plan to better equip the NGO network of St. Thomas at preparing for potential response and recovery. STRT also helped coordinate individual scale donation deliveries of lanterns, tarps and water filtration and storage systems.

ST. JOHN Long Term Recovery Group

Community-wide Collaboration

The Disaster Case Management (DCM) work with a broad array of non-profit and private sector partners on St John is long-standing, with regular outreach helping leverage the impact of individual programs.

Ongoing Housing Recovery

As construction once again gets underway on the Resilient Housing Initiative (RHI) program in partnership with Love City Strong, the DCM team also supports the HMGP St. John Wind Retrofit Project, providing case management to

the beneficiaries of that program. This includes helping clients understand the program's scope and guidance in preparing the necessary documentation. DCM has assisted the engineering team with over 25 structural assessments of homes for this program to date. With the RHI program slated to wrap up its final sites within the next six months, the Wind Retrofit program and the Disaster Case Managers will continue the critical housing recovery work on St John.

St. John Community Foundation

The St. John Community Foundation (SJCF) partners with several governmental and non-governmental agencies to help those in need, picking up the pieces, rebuilding homes and rebuilding lives.

St. John Wind Retrofit Program

SJCF is working collaboratively with FEMA, VITEMA and the Office of Disaster Recovery to execute the St. John Wind Retrofit Program to ensure the islands' residents do not experience the widespread damage encountered during Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The \$7 million HMGP grant will support the foundation's mission in rebuilding resiliently.



2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

CHALLENGES

ONGOING CHALLENGES

Going into the fourth year of recovery, there are several ongoing challenges remaining that continue to substantively impact the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of hurricane recovery. Getting each of these resolved in a manner favorable to the Territory is absolutely essential before the end of 2020.

Pace of Recovery

Large Number of Projects Still Under FEMA Review

One of the largest challenges currently impacting the pace of recovery is the large backlog of potential replacement projects for FEMA to address, both under the new BBA Authorities, as well as through the standard 50% Rule.

In BBA-eligible sectors, FEMA has determined that after receiving a relatively simple request letter, they will perform an analysis to determine whether or not the facility falls into any form of allowable replacement. First, FEMA will evaluate for BBA "prudent replacement," as defined in FEMA policy. If FEMA determines that prudent replacement is not justified, FEMA evaluates costs for repair vs. replacement and approves replacement if the replacement cost exceeds 50%. While the 50% Rule traditionally only allows consideration of hurricane-related damages, both the BBA and DRRRA make important modifications to this rule that favor replacement; however, this also complicates the analysis and has led to extensive delays.

Since the new BBA/DRRA rules have been in place, FEMA has only approved 1 replacement in BBA critical services sectors out of a total of 59 pending requests – and this one, Arthur Richards Junior High school was done in late April with no additional approvals (or denials) in the following five months.

Due to the complexity of FEMA's review process and an apparent shortage of staffing resources to perform the work, these 59 projects in BBA critical services sectors have, on average been under review for more than

103 days so far. Additionally, the 13 projects in non-BBA critical services sectors (e.g., roads, public buildings, recreational facilities, public housing, etc.) have fared even worse, languishing for an average of 196+ days to date while awaiting a decision on a replacement.

Deadline for Fixed-Cost Grant Agreements

In recent years, FEMA has been emphasizing the benefits of using the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures authorized under Section 428 of the Stafford Act (428s) to arrive at fixed cost agreements, i.e., project-specific caps, for most infrastructure projects impacted by disasters. While the Territory is committed to using the 428 process to the maximum extent practicable, there are also challenges to doing so, including deadlines imposed by FEMA for accepting offers.

FEMA issued its first US Virgin Islands-specific 428 guidance in September of 2019, which set a deadline of March 20, 2020, for all Fixed Cost Offers to be signed by the Territory. Because FEMA was only able to present 14 Fixed Cost Offers to the Territory by the March deadline, FEMA granted a "blanket extension" until September 20, 2020. During this extension period, FEMA has only been able to generate another 14 Fixed Cost Offers out of an estimated original total of 337 potential projects; therefore, on August 14, 2020, the Territory formally requested a blanket extension of an additional six months to give FEMA sufficient time to complete their work. As of the writing of this report, that extension request is still under FEMA review.

Deadline for Submitting Hazard Mitigation Projects

On all Presidentially declared disasters for which the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized, FEMA sets a "lock-in" amount establishing the minimum



funding threshold. Since HMGP funding is based upon a sliding scale as a percentage of other FEMA assistance, the actual amount varies over time and FEMA adjusts the lock-in amount accordingly.

The current lock-in amount for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program across DR-4335 and DR-4340 sits at \$462 million, but to date, the Territory has submitted over \$550M worth of Mitigation applications. Despite this proactive approach to application development and the Territory's commitment to increasing resiliency, FEMA has set a hard deadline of September 30, 2020, for all HMGP application submittals. While the Territory has consistently shown the ability to develop applications in proper time to meet deadlines, the complications and aforementioned delays in the FEMA Public Assistance Program continue to make it difficult for the Territory to fully develop some HMGP applications because those Public Assistance projects also may have associated hazard mitigation measures and duplication of benefits must be avoided. As a result, until FEMA determines what hazard mitigation

work is eligible under the Public Assistance Program, it is infeasible to finalize the list of projects for HMGP.

Furthermore, since most of the large Public Assistance Program infrastructure projects have yet to be obligated, the Territory anticipates the HMGP lock-in to significantly increase over time, allowing the Territory to see how much funding is available and then developing project applications accordingly. Until the total amount of HMGP funding is known – probably in late 2021 – it will be extremely difficult for the Territory to appropriately use resources to develop strong, effective HMGP applications commensurate with available funding.

Although in granting the last extension, FEMA stated that this was the “final extension,” there now seems to be some willingness within FEMA to reconsider this decision. In order to bring the issue to resolution, in August 2020, the Territory formally requested an extension of the time period to submit HMGP applications until March 2021.



Key Temporary Facilities Still Awaiting FEMA Approval

VI DOH Temporary Clinic (St. Thomas)

The US Virgin Islands Department of Health (DOH) Clinic in St. Thomas was located within the severely storm-damaged Roy Lester Schneider Hospital (RLSH). In the immediate aftermath of the hurricanes, FEMA tasked the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with constructing a 26,000 square foot temporary modular clinic until the hospital repairs were completed. Unfortunately, after more than 18-months of trying to resolve design and constructability issues associated with the site selected, the USACE abandoned the project and FEMA advised DOH that they would have to come up with their own solution, which FEMA would pay for.

Within weeks, DOH was able to develop a viable alternative plan, which included rehabilitating space in portions of eleven of their buildings in the John S. Moorehead Complex and the adjacent Knud Hansen Tower to create 25,000 square feet of temporary space. More than a year ago, DOH submitted a formal request to FEMA for approval of this project, including justification of the need and the cost-effectiveness. The USACE's original modular solution would have cost \$11.25M, while the new DOH option is only \$11M.

The proposed temporary space had been used as storage before the incident, and DOH intends to utilize FEMA funding to perform major build-out of these buildings to convert them to safe, modern, temporary office space. The facilities' electrical and building automation systems will be linked together to allow for Information Technology and Direct Digital Control usefulness.



Available parking at the Knud Hansen Center and the adjacent John S. Moorehead Complex is very limited, and with the increased capacity of occupied office square footage, additional parking space will also be required. To meet this need, demolition of the approximate 12,000 SF Old Mental Health Building and placement of a large FEMA funded parking lot will address the needs at the temporary facility.

This project is currently nearing obligation in the final FEMA review stages, and DOH expects to procure and award the contract to complete the renovation work by early 2021.

Temporary Roy L. Schneider Hospital (St. Thomas)

On St. Thomas, the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital (RLSH) sustained severe damage throughout the facility. In order to complete repairs to the existing hospital, an interim facility will be required to continue to provide seamless critical healthcare services to the population of St. Thomas and its visitors.

FEMA has approved a project which initially envisioned a series of modular facilities at RLSH as the interim solution; however, space limitations and a variety of construction impediments identified during the collaborative planning/design process determined that the modular approach was not feasible at the proposed location, and alternative solutions were considered.

In mid-2019, RLSH decided that the best way to deliver uninterrupted quality care during the multi-year restoration process was to construct a four-level, 31,500 square foot interim wing at the east entrance of the hospital to meet their critical care



needs. The first floor of this structure will be an open structural driveway designed to improve emergency room egress. The elevated remaining three stories of the interim hospital facility will provide the required minimal essential hospital services while being attached to the current hospital building, thus allowing for utilization of existing infrastructure connectivity and functionality. This will allow for peak effectiveness of restoration, maximizing the speed at which the restoration can take place, and enabling RLSH to better serve public safety with the continuity of hospital services.

Nearly one year after proposing this solution, which satisfies all of FEMA's requirements for a temporary facility, including cost reasonableness, FEMA has continued to question the need for the temporary space. In recent months, the need has become even more acute since parts of the hospital that were planned to be used as swing space during reconstruction have now been devoted to COVID-19 acute care.

Assuming that FEMA ultimately approves this temporary facility, construction could begin in early 2023 and be completed in 2025 to coincide with the major reconstruction project to commence.



Correctional Facilities

The Bureau of Corrections (BOC) currently has three facilities throughout the Territory, all of which sustained substantial damages due to the storm events. The Alva A. Swan Correctional Annex, on St. Thomas, was damaged beyond repair. The Alexander Farrelly Criminal Justice Complex (CJC), on St. Thomas is jointly occupied and operated by the VI Police Department and BOC and sustained considerable damage to the roof, building exterior and interior spaces due to flooding of the basement; however the facility continues to operate, albeit purely due to necessity and with diminished capacity. The Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility, on St. Croix, sustained damages to 28 buildings with two of the main housing buildings being damaged to the point where they are not usable; however, this facility also continues in operation, due to a lack of other options and with a reduced capacity. The current total cost estimate for repairs to all BOC facilities is over \$25M, with this estimate expected to rise as the FEMA damage validation process is currently underway and continuing.

Prior to the storm events, the BOC facilities housed both convicts and detainees remanded to one of the facilities awaiting trial. BOC is required to separate different classifications of inmates so that detainees awaiting trial are not housed together with convicted felons. Additionally, requirements are in place to ensure the separation of inmates with mental disorders from the general population and to house male and female inmates separately.

Post-storm, the situation of safely housing the detainees and inmates has become an ongoing challenge since BOC has lost about 40% of the available bed capacity across all facilities. Currently, BOC is operating the remaining buildings near the maximum of the now-available capacity, even though they remain unrepaired. Additionally, in order to comply with an existing Federal Consent Decree, due to the limited space available in which to separate different classifications of inmates, BOC must transfer more inmates to the facilities on the

mainland, a method used prior to the storm events to comply with the Decree due to overcrowding. The present situation risks federal action due to non-compliance with the Federal Consent Decree by BOC and the Territory. Further, continuing this provisional approach to the loss of capacity also infringes on inmates' legal rights of access to legal counsel and speedy trials, as well as access to family visitations.

As an interim measure and using existing cash-on-hand, BOC has renovated a small existing building as a temporary facility to house female inmates. BOC has also submitted a request to FEMA for assistance to add more interim capacity at the Golden Grove Facility, with an eye on reducing the current housing shortage until the FEMA-funded repairs on both islands can be obligated.

The proposed Golden Grove interim facility would be used to house inmates from across the Territory until the facilities on both islands can be rebuilt or repaired. BOC initially submitted a request to FEMA for funding for an interim facility in February of 2019, and over the following 18 months, FEMA has continued to both question the need for the facility and the amount of space being requested.

Currently, BOC is still awaiting a determination from FEMA as to funding for the interim facility. In July of this year, the BOC submitted yet another revised proposal for the interim facility providing FEMA with two options: purchasing modular units specifically built for correctional facilities or renovating existing, inactive buildings at the Golden Grove Facility. BOC has recommended the renovation of the buildings as the most cost-effective, as well as the fastest solution, with an estimated cost of \$11M and approximately 18-months construction time.

Pending a determination from FEMA, BOC will continue to operate in the damaged facilities, operating at maximum capacity, while exposing inmates and staff to leaking roofs and mold that has infiltrated the

facilities. If the Territory were to be unfortunate enough to encounter another storm before repairs are made, the existing facilities would likely sustain additional damages, which would further reduce the available housing capacity. The only recourse would then be for BOC to move most of the 200 to 400 inmates off-island until funding was made available to make temporary repairs necessary to return to operation. Currently, BOC is expending approximately \$3,000 per inmate per month to house off-island. BOC has requested assistance from FEMA to cover these off-island housing costs due to the damages sustained at the BOC facilities, but that request is also pending a determination from FEMA.

Unfavorable FEMA Policies

High Cost of Construction

Since late 2017, the USVI has been in discussion with FEMA over the high cost of construction in the Territory given its fragile economy and remote location and exacerbated by competition for recovery resources with the mainland and its much larger neighbor, Puerto Rico.

This is a critical issue because in order to leverage the special provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA), the Territory must adhere to the rules under Section 428 of the Stafford Act, which requires acceptance of “fixed cost grants,” which cannot be modified even if actual bids come in much higher than accounted for in the cost estimate made in advance of design or construction.

As a result, the Territory may have no choice but to accept fixed cost grants – and the huge potential risk for funding shortfalls - in order to be able to receive federal funding to rebuild to BBA Industry Standards. The primary alternative offered by FEMA is to build back to the same inadequate pre-disaster design conditions and qualify for reimbursement for actual costs.

Until this issue is resolved, recovery will continue to be unnecessarily and unavoidably slowed.



Captain Rencelir J. Gibbs Fire Station (Cotton Valley)

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Road Ahead

Year 4 of the U.S. Virgin Islands' recovery from 2017 will be pivotal. This is the year that the Territory expects to move beyond project formulation and approvals into funding obligation of most major projects as well as a substantive transition into project implementation.

Following is a sector-by-sector high-level projection of where the Territory expects to be by the end of Year 4 in September of 2021.



DPW- Veterans Drive Road Widening, Phase I



Roads

- FEMA eligibility issues should be resolved on 40 projects on St. Croix and St. Thomas valued at more than \$100M which were previously approved by FEMA that are now entering the appeal process. Assuming that eligibility is reinstated by early 2021, many FEMA-funded road projects requiring only minor design could be starting construction by the end of Year 4. In addition, the more complex FEMA-funded projects, including those with funding from multiple sources, should be in design.
- The DOI funded roadway projects in Christiansted and Frederiksted – both of which are currently awaiting completion of underground utility work should be under construction.
- Most of the larger FHWA-ER funded projects, which are to be administered by Eastern Federal Lands, should be well into the design process, with some already being bid out for construction.
- Six major roadway reconstruction projects with design funding from CDBG-DR should be fully under design with construction funding for these plus Veterans Drive Phase II on St. Thomas being finalized through CDBG-MIT.

Schools

- Design of the first five high priority school campuses should be nearing the halfway point while FEMA should have finished BBA prudent replacement analysis of all damaged campuses. Permanent repairs will continue on schools that do not qualify for replacement.
- Design of the new UVI Multipurpose Center should also be well underway with all funding for construction fully in place through FEMA HMGP and HUD CDBG-MIT.

Healthcare & Homes for the Aged

- Temporary JFL Hospital is expected to be complete by December 2020, while funding for the new JFL should be obligated and design should be in the early stages by the end of Year 4.
- Assuming that FEMA approves plans for the Temporary Schneider Hospital by the end of 2020, design should be well underway by the end of Year 4. FEMA should also complete prudent replacement reviews, scopes of work and cost estimates for all components of the RLSMC system on St. Thomas and St. John and design could get started if the projects are obligated by mid-summer.
- Design of the new DOH Harwood Clinic on St. Croix should be nearing the halfway point while construction is expected to be starting on the Temporary DOH Clinic by mid-2021.
- FEMA should complete its prudent replacement review of the Queen Louise Home for the Aged and its BBA repair scope of work for the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged by early 2021. In addition, temporary repairs necessary to maintain operations at both facilities until the new Homes for the Aged are constructed should be completed. Assuming that full funding for the two new skilled nursing facilities on each island is in place using FEMA PA and HMGP plus HUD CDBG-DR/MIT, design could commence before the end of Year 4.

Utilities

- WAPA will continue its robust resiliency program with the installation of the new CDBG-DR funded generators at the Harley Power Plant on St. Thomas, the emergency backup generators on St. John and nearing completion of composite poles installation Territory-wide. In addition, funding should be approved (including restrictions on the use of HUD funding resolved) to enable design to continue major undergrounding, microgrid and renewable energy projects.
- WAPA is also expected to get started on the design of CDBG-DR funded potable waterline extensions while prudent replacement decisions on major portions of the water distribution system should be completed.
- FEMA should approve prudent replacement of the wastewater systems territory-wide allowing WMA to be fully engaged in the development of a masterplan for the new modernized system.
- WMA should also be into the CDBG-DR funded design process for neighborhood convenience centers across the Territory and on the new landfills on St. Croix and St. Thomas.



Housing

- Most STEP eligibility issues should be resolved by mid-2021 with significant payments made to all contractors and subcontractors before the end of Year 4.
- Construction for the St. John, Estate Adrian Senior Center should be completed early within Year 4. Additionally, the demolition of the five (5) buildings within Estate Tutu will be completed in Year 4, with the Designs for Tutu Phases II and III. Construction would have commenced by the end of Year 4 for both Donoe Redevelopment and Tutu Phase II.

Other Public Facilities

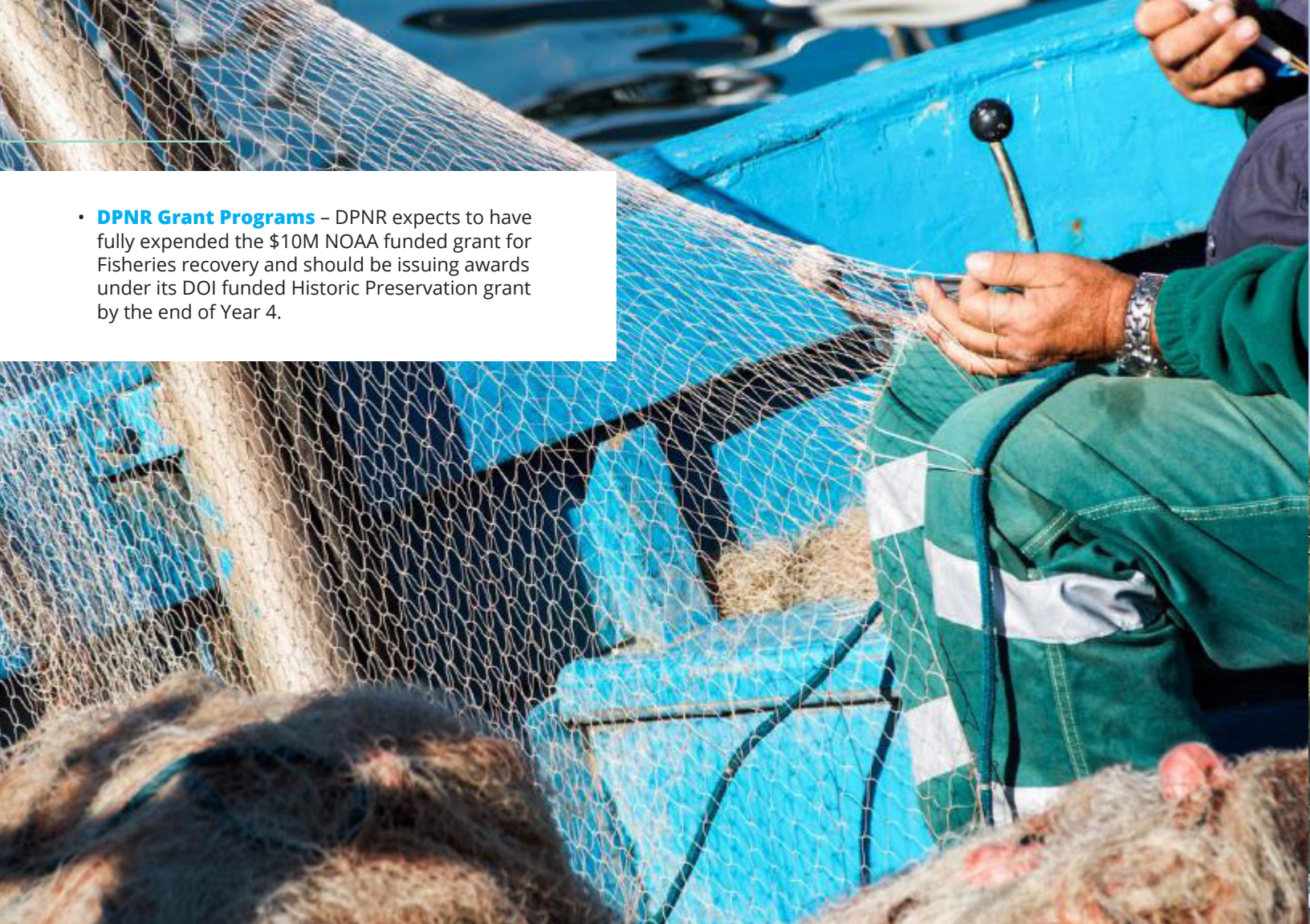
- **Government Houses** – Reconstruction should be substantially complete on all Government Houses on all islands.
- **Airports** – Construction will be underway on the nearly \$30M of EDA funded upgrades to the Territory's two airports.
- **Emergency Management** – The Tsunami Warning System should be restored to full operation Territory-wide by the end of Year 4 and reconstruction plans will be underway for the VITEMA Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) on three islands, including a new state-of-the-art EOC on St. Croix.
- **Recreational Facilities** – Design of the new Frederiksted Pool should be well underway and construction and repairs will be completed on

twenty-five recreational facilities across the Territory.

- **Jails** – Design should be approaching the halfway point on the new Swan Annex on St. Thomas and repair plans should be advancing for Golden Grove (St. Croix) and CJC (St. Thomas).
- **Emergency Shelters and Saferooms** – In addition to the UVI Multipurpose Center described above, the design should be well underway on shelters and safe rooms for various police and fire stations across the Territory as well as for St. Dunstan's and the Alexander Theater on St. Croix.
- **Motor Vehicles Buildings** – Design of new or upgraded Bureau of Motor Vehicles buildings should be started for the new St. Thomas BMV, which has already been approved for replacement by FEMA, slightly ahead of the St. Croix BMV for which FEMA should complete its replacement determination by the end of 2020.
- **Other Projects** expected to be under construction, include: St. John Community Center, Charles A. Seales Fire Station, Fleming House, Revitalization of the St. Croix Agricultural Office and Fair Grounds, DPNR Office (STJ), WIC Building (STX).

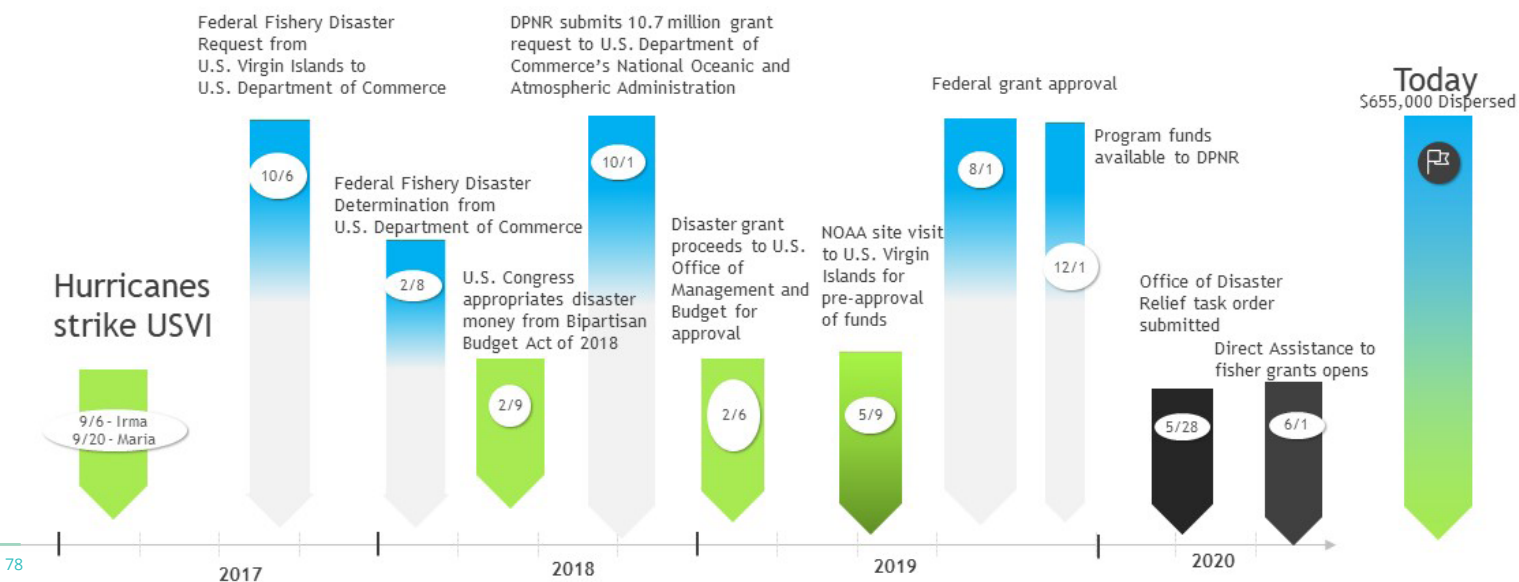
UVI- Rendering of UVI Multipurpose Sports Complex St. Croix





- **DPNR Grant Programs** – DPNR expects to have fully expended the \$10M NOAA funded grant for Fisheries recovery and should be issuing awards under its DOI funded Historic Preservation grant by the end of Year 4.

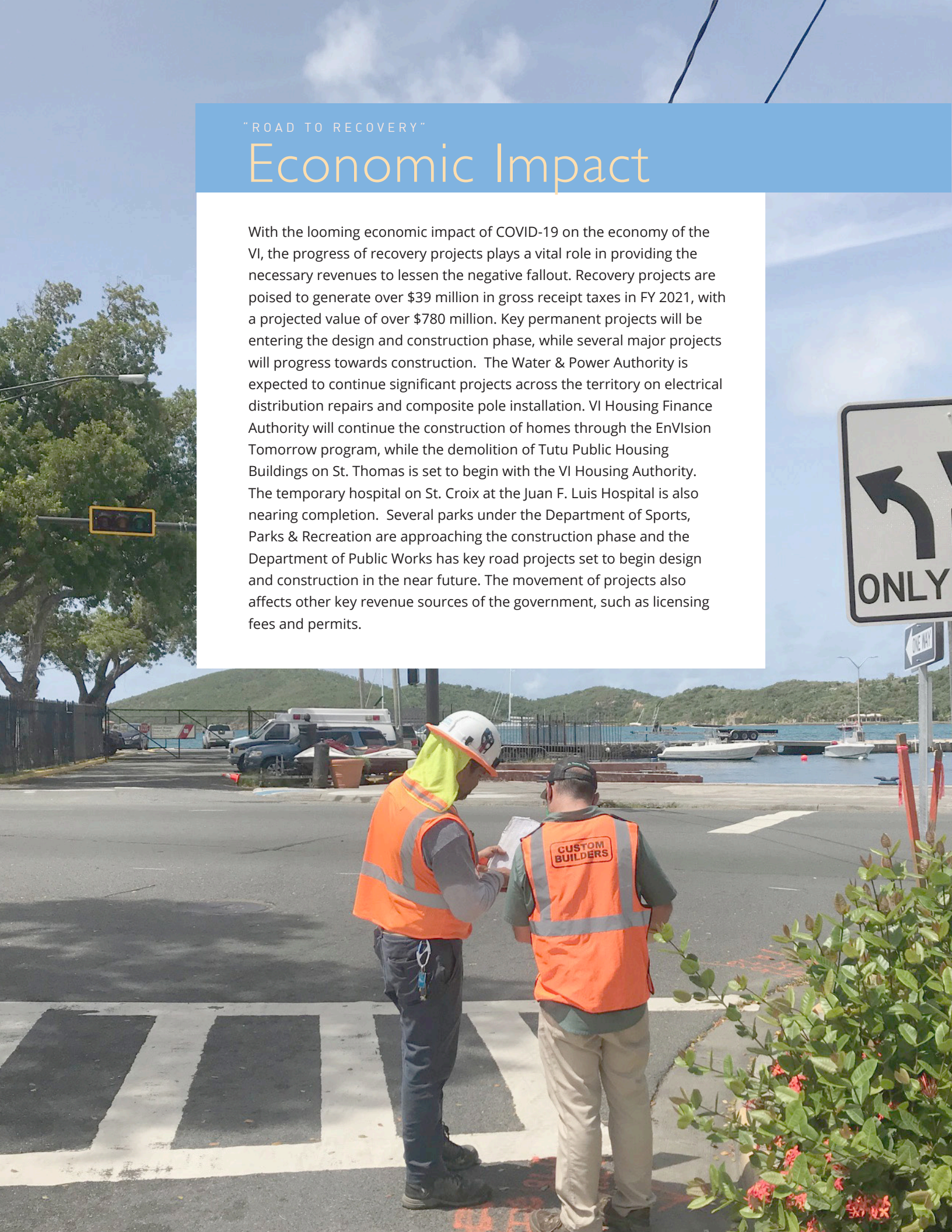
DPNR Fisheries Hurricane Disaster Relief Program



"ROAD TO RECOVERY"

Economic Impact

With the looming economic impact of COVID-19 on the economy of the VI, the progress of recovery projects plays a vital role in providing the necessary revenues to lessen the negative fallout. Recovery projects are poised to generate over \$39 million in gross receipt taxes in FY 2021, with a projected value of over \$780 million. Key permanent projects will be entering the design and construction phase, while several major projects will progress towards construction. The Water & Power Authority is expected to continue significant projects across the territory on electrical distribution repairs and composite pole installation. VI Housing Finance Authority will continue the construction of homes through the EnVIsion Tomorrow program, while the demolition of Tutu Public Housing Buildings on St. Thomas is set to begin with the VI Housing Authority. The temporary hospital on St. Croix at the Juan F. Luis Hospital is also nearing completion. Several parks under the Department of Sports, Parks & Recreation are approaching the construction phase and the Department of Public Works has key road projects set to begin design and construction in the near future. The movement of projects also affects other key revenue sources of the government, such as licensing fees and permits.





Building a Legacy of Resilience



VIDE - New Schools Advisory Board Meeting



DPW-STREET LINING

