



**Government of the United States Virgin Islands  
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority  
NOTICE OF FINAL PUBLIC REVIEW  
Floodplain Management Executive Order (EO) 11988**

The Government of the Virgin Islands has received federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, (PL93-383), which it proposes to allocate to various projects throughout the Territory.

The priority for this funding is to address single-family housing recovery needs within the Territory as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) CDBG-DR Program, as specified in the United States Virgin Islands Disaster Recovery Action Plan, will allocate \$60,000,000 to the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. The maximum award for reconstruction is \$250,000 and for rehabilitation is \$50,000. Through this program, the Territory will enter into grant agreements with homeowners that will result in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of storm-damaged residential owner-occupied structures. For residences considered substantially damaged, support will be granted for reconstruction or provision of a modular (or manufactured) home in place of their original unit. Reconstruction and replacement modular homes will follow all FEMA, NFIP and HUD regulation.

VIHFA, as the designated entity acting on behalf of the Territory, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C “Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management,” to determine the potential effect that activity in the 100-year floodplain (hereinafter referred to as the floodplain) will have on the human environment.

Floodplains are areas adjacent to rivers, ponds and lakes that flood periodically. They are hydrologically important, environmentally sensitive, and ecologically productive areas that perform many natural functions. Floodplains benefit wildlife by creating a variety of habitats for fish and other animals. In addition, they are important because of their ability to protect water quality, recharge groundwater and to store and convey water.

While the process of confirming site specific locations within each island is currently in progress, some of the potential applications may be located within the floodplain. All homes reconstructed within a floodplain will be constructed on the same footprint and elevated if possible. The VIHFA CDBG-DR Program has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures, if elevation is not possible, to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (1) refrain from reconstruction in the floodplain; (2) incorporate wet or dry floodproofing measures; (3) construct a flood barrier; or (4) incorporate interior modification/retrofit measures. The Virgin Islands

Housing Finance Authority will work with local USVI Floodplain and FEMA Floodplain administrators to determine the best course of action on a case-by-case basis.

The Eight-Step Analysis for this project has been completed and is available for public review and comment at the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority offices located at 3438 Kronprindsens Gade, GERS Complex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, St. Thomas VI 00802 or 100 Lagoon Complex, Suite 4, Frederiksted, VI 00840, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm.

Upon completion of the Eight-Step Analysis, it has been determined that there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed program. However, there are measures that can be taken to assist with the protection of habitable structures located in the floodplain. The proposed program does not involve expansion of any existing structures into the floodplain. Therefore, the proposed program is not expected to cause any additional affect to the floodplain.

All interested agencies and/or persons disagreeing with the decision made with respect to the Eight-Step Analysis are invited to submit written comments for consideration to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority at 3438 Kronprindsens Gade, GERS Complex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, St. Thomas VI 00802, Attention Mrs. Antoinette Fleming, Director of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program no later than 5:00pm on October 24, 2019. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to [environmental@vihfa.gov](mailto:environmental@vihfa.gov) by the aforementioned date.

Sincerely,



Daryl Griffith, Executive Director  
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority