USVI Economic Development Authority

Webinar: Farmers Loans, Grants & COVID-19 Resources

Moderator: Cusa Holloway, VIEDA’s Incubator Program Manager

April 22, 2020
10:00am
Speakers

Hannah Carty
Deputy Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

Nadine Marchena Kean
Managing Director, Enterprise Zone Commission

Monique Samuel
Acting Director of Lending

Mikol Hoffman
Plow to Plate Program Director

Rena Elias
Area Specialist
Rural Development US Virgin Islands
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Rudy G. O’Reilly
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Agenda

- Reliable COVID-19 Resources (Local & Federal)
- Updates on VIEDA’s EZC’s Processing Plant
- Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture
- Plow to Plate Program by World Central Kitchen
- VIEDA’s Economic Development Bank Available Loans
- USDA’s NRCS Programs
- USDA’s Rural Development Programs
Credible Sources for COVID-19 Resources

• Virgin Islands Department of Health – www.doh.vi.gov/coronavirus or Text COVID19USVI to 88877 or call 340-713-6200 or 340-776-1519

• VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency: www.vitema.vi.gov

• Office of the Governor of the USVI: www.facebook.com/GovernmentHouseUSVI

• Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov

• World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
VIDA Specific Resources

Please utilize our website & social media platforms:
- https://doa.vi.gov
- Facebook: @USVIDA or fb.me/USVIDA

Ensure VIDA has your updated contact information
- Including email and telephone number

For questions, comments, or concerns.
- Please email info.doa@doa.vi.gov.

Main concerns:
- Feed, Seed, & Slips Available
- Farmer Vending
  - Allowing road-side stands
  - Encouraging delivery and/or pick up options, or alternate locations that customers can drive-through or pick up
- VIDA Marketing Division
- Markets are open:
  - St. Croix, at the Rudolph Shulterbrandt Agricultural Complex
  - St. Thomas, at the Bordeaux Farmers’ Market
  - Running list of Relocated Vendors available online

Land Preparation On-going
USVI Economic Development Authority
Enterprise Zone Commission

Nadine Marchena Kean
Managing Director
Resources For Farmers & Foodies

➢ From the FDA: COVID-19 Q&A

➢ From the USDA: COVID-19 resource guide
Farmers & Fishers Business Conference Update

- The Vote:
  - Avocado
  - Banana
  - Coconut
  - Lemongrass

- Agronomist/Horticulturist RFP
- Grant Extension

- Contact information: EZC@usvieda.org or 340-714-1700 (x1811)
USVI Economic Development Authority
Economic Development Bank
Monique Samuel, Acting Director of Lending
Farmers

- Maximum direct loan of $50,000
- Maximum loan term of 5 years
- Interest rate not to exceed 4%
- Applicant must have the necessary license to engage in commercial fishing
- Applicant must have been engaged in commercial fishing or farming for at least 3 years in the USVI
Micro-Credit

- Maximum direct loan of $50,000
- Maximum loan term of 5 years
- Interest rate set at 5%
- Start-up or existing farmers
- Must be a legal resident of the United States Virgin Islands five (5) years proceeding the application for a loan
Uses of Loan Proceeds

- Equipment and Machinery used for farming
- Purchase inventory, supplies, hand held tools, livestock, appliance (cold storage), storage unit (construct or purchase), insulated coolers, engine, motor, and the like
- Purchase, repair, upgrade, install irrigation system, fencing
- Construct a reasonable size green house, farm stand
- Working Capital
- Transportation, boat, trailer
Plow to Plate’s Mission

Strengthen food security and the food economy throughout the Caribbean and Central America region.

Create a lasting reduction in the high rate of food imports.
Three Programmatic Pillars

GRANTS

CAPACITY BUILDING + NETWORKING

VOLUNTEERS + AGRITOURISM
What do we offer?

• Grants from $5,000 to $20,000
• Business and technical training
• Exposure to WCK’s network
• Volunteers for work
What do we fund?

- Agricultural infrastructure and equipment
- Machinery and Industrial equipment
- Greenhouses
- Cold and dry storage
- Water systems
- Supplies
- Construction costs
- Fishing equipment
- Computers
Who can apply?

- Smallholder farmers
- Fishers and fisheries
- Agribusiness (food producers, distributors, or suppliers)
$1.3+ million awarded to 80+ grantees

1,130+ hours of training and networking

890+ volunteers on partner farms
Apply Today!

https://wck.org/apply-to-p2p

Deadline is April 30th at 11:59pm

Questions? Email us at usvi@wck.org
Rural Development

Rena Elias
Area VII – U.S. Virgin Islands
RD’s COVID 19 Response:
https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus
COVID-19 FEDERAL RESOURCE GUIDE

https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus

Immediate Opportunities for RD Customers Impacted by COVID-19

Actions Taken by USDA Rural Development to Help Rural Residents, Businesses, and Communities Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

Immediate Actions Fact sheet

- [ ] Word document
- [ ] PDF (English)
- [ ] PDF (Spanish)

Responding to COVID-19

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

- technical, training, and management assistance;
- financial assistance; and
- state and local assistance.

This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other Federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

For more information on the immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19, visit usda.gov/coronavirus.

For the latest news from the CDC on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.gov
Rural Development Programs & Services
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services

USDA Rural Development operates over fifty financial assistance programs for a variety of rural applications. Select a category that best describes your situation, and see what RD can do to assist you. We also offer a list of all programs.

Programs and Services for Developers
- Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants
- Multi-Family Housing Loan Guarantees
- Rural Housing Site Loans
- Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Programs & Services for Individuals
- Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans
- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program
- Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants

Programs & Services for Communities & Nonprofits
- Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program
- Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training

Programs & Services for Lenders
- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program
- Business & Industry Loan Guarantees
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program
- Intermediary Relending Program
- Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit &
Farmers' Loans, Grants, & Resources

Rural Development has a few programs that our farmers and fishmen can benefit from:

- Business & Industry Loan Guarantee (B&I)
- Rural Energy of America Renewable Energy System & Energy Efficiency Grant (REAP)
- Value Added Producer’s Grant (VAPG)

If you have any questions regarding the DLT application, please contact the representative below:

Andrew E. Hayes
General Field Representative
Cell: 770.312.7073
Email: andrew.hayes@usda.gov

In addition, we urge our farmers to seek assistance with our partner agencies, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources and Conservation Service Agency. (NRCS)
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ADDRESS:
4401 Sion Farm; Suite 2
Christiansted, VI 00820

Directions: East of Cost U Less on St. Croix.
On the 2nd floor of the VI Dept of Labor building.

Phone: 340-773-9146 x4

General Email: vi-rd@usda.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on limiting the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing, we are now in enterprise-wide remote operational status. While the office is not physically accessible, USDA Rural Development is open for business and looks forward to continuing our vital work supporting our customers who live and work in rural America.

The St. Croix, Virgin Islands Rural Development team will continue delivering programs and offering the highest level of customer service. Customers and stakeholders can reach employees by calling 340-773-9146 ext 4 or sending a message to our general email: vi-rd@usda.gov

Contacts:
Kimme Bryce
Area Director
Kimme.Bryce@usda.gov

Rena Elias
Area Specialist
Rena.elias@usda.gov
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Assistance
Contact:
Rudy G. O’Reilly, Jr.
340-692-9632, ext. 106
340-514-4262 (cell)
rudy.o_reilly@usda.gov

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Together We will Thrive.
We Support our Farmers.

Thank you to all participating agencies and organizations!
PPT & Recording will be available at www.usvieda.org/webinars