

Virgin Islands  
Housing Finance Authority  
40th Anniversary  
1984 – 2024

*“Honoring our Past,  
Strengthening the Present,  
Building our Future”*

Commemorative  
Catalog







**“Honoring our Past,  
Strengthening the Present,  
Building our Future”**



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## Commemorating 40 Years of VIHFA

It is with great pride that we present this 40th Anniversary Commemorative Catalog in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA). This commemorative catalog chronicles our perseverance, progress, partnership and the people we serve, which is the heart of our mission. It is testament to the remarkable journey we have traveled together.

Over the past four decades, the Authority has played a pivotal role in shaping the homeownership landscape of the U.S. Virgin Islands by creating pathways to affordable housing, promoting sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for countless families.

Commemorating 40 years provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect on our shared history—on the challenges we’ve faced, the solutions we’ve implemented, and the vision that has always driven our mission: to empower the people of the territory by providing options for safe and affordable housing. As we look back, we honor the many individuals—staff, partners, community leaders, and residents—who have contributed to our success. Their unwavering commitment and resilience have made the VIHFA a cornerstone of this community.

As the VIHFA continues to innovate, adapt, and expand its services, we remain dedicated to fostering growth that benefits all Virgin Islanders. From pioneering new housing initiatives to embracing green building technologies, we are committed to leading the way toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

Thank you for being part of this journey and may the next 40 years be as inspiring and transformative as the last as we continue our commitment to providing Homes For All.

In Service,

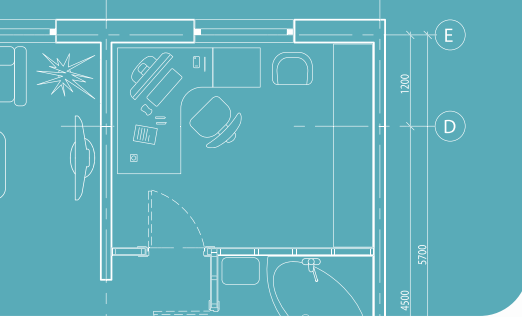
**Rick S. S. Grant**

*Editor-in-Chief*









**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
 GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
 Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
 340-774-0001

**HOUSING MONTH 2024**

\*\*\*\*\*

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A PROCLAMATION**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHEREAS**, safe, decent, and sanitary housing is important to the United States Virgin Islands and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, owning a home is a major aspiration of Virgin Islanders and a testimony of personal identity, and a fundamental unit of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, adequate housing is key, not only to the welfare of individual families, but to the overall economic development of the Territory; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy housing industry provides families with affordable housing opportunities, the chance to build equity, strengthens the tax base, creates jobs, and opens the doors for further growth and development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority and the Virgin Islands Housing Authority has provided eligible applicants with diverse housing opportunities through their many and varied programs; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 1981, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, and the Government by Act No. 4636, created the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority for the express purpose of operating the Affordable Housing Program for low and moderate-income persons in the Territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority commenced operation in 1984; and

*Proclamation: Housing Month 2024*  
*Page | 2*

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and the Government by Act No. 6973 transferred the Housing functions of the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, for Forty-three years, many Virgin Islanders have achieved the housing dream through low interest mortgage loans, major rehabilitation and revitalization projects, increased availability of affordable housing and joint efforts of the Government and private industry; and

**WHEREAS**, for Forty-three years of the affordable housing program in the Territory, it is in the public interest and essential to the public health and welfare to continue to encourage homeownership and provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for persons of low and moderate-income.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and by Act No. 6973 which transferred the Housing functions of the Department of Housing, Parks, and Recreation in 2007, do hereby proclaim **the month of June 2024**, as "Housing Month" in the Virgin Islands. I urge all residents to join with me in supporting agencies of the Federal Government and the Territory, and their efforts to provide safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing for the people of the Territory.

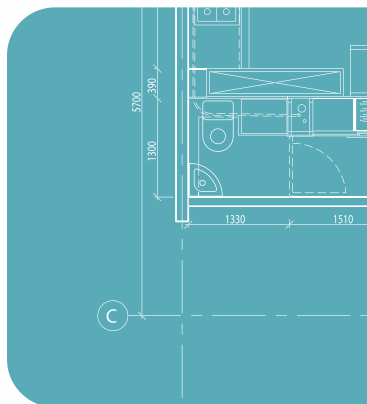
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 30th day of April, A. D., 2024.



Albert Bryan Jr.  
 Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.  
 Lieutenant Governor





Beltjen II 31 AB Taarnejberg, Charlotte Amalie, St.Thomas, VI, 00802  
 340-777-4432 ext:4220 | Mobile 340-514-0238  
 Eugene Jones, Jr. - VIHFA Executive Director



## Celebrating 40 Years of VIHFA!

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, it is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the journey we've undertaken together. For four decades, VIHFA has been committed to transforming lives through affordable housing solutions, fostering community development, and empowering our residents to build better futures. Our mission has always been rooted in the belief that everyone deserves a safe, stable, and dignified place to call home.

As we look to the future, our commitment to this mission remains as strong as ever. We are embarking on an ambitious housing development plan that aims to meet the growing needs of our community. By engaging local contractors and fostering public-private partnerships, we are not only creating homes but also generating economic opportunities that will benefit the entire territory. We recognize that the challenges of affordable housing are complex, and we are dedicated to finding innovative solutions that ensure long-term sustainability.

In addition to our development goals, we are thoughtfully re-evaluating our emergency housing strategies and intensifying our efforts in homeless prevention. The recent challenges we have faced remind us of the importance of being prepared, and we are committed to enhancing our response capabilities to better serve our residents in times of crisis. By working closely with community stakeholders and leveraging our resources, we aim to create a robust safety net that supports our most vulnerable citizens.

As we celebrate this milestone, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our dedicated staff, partners, and the residents we serve. Together, we have built a legacy of hope, resilience, and progress. The road ahead is filled with promise, and I am confident that by continuing to work together, we will achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Sincerely,

*Eugene Jones Jr.*  
**Eugene Jones Jr.**

*Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority*

## Message for the VIHFA Board of Directors' Chairperson

It is with remarkable resiliency and sustainability that the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority can celebrate its 40th anniversary of providing affordable housing solutions and fostering sustainable development according to our mission. This milestone is a true testament of our longevity, but it is also a celebration of the countless contributions made by our dedicated board of directors, employees, partners, and clients.

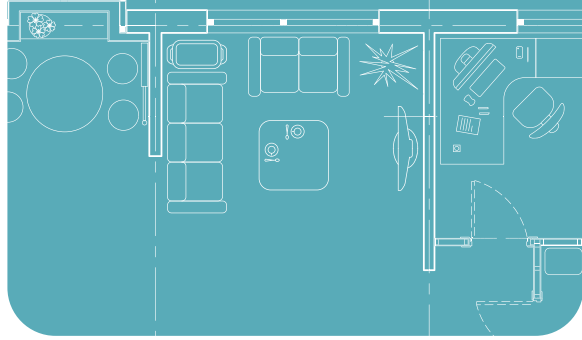
Over the past four decades, the challenges that the VIHFA has navigated through have propelled innovative initiatives and collaborative efforts to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. This position has brought forth growth and transformation, positioning us as leaders in the housing industry.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, we applaud the hard work and dedication of the employees, past and present, as well as the passion and commitment they have displayed while carrying our mission forward and the partners who have joined in this noble cause. Together we have built a legacy of hope and opportunity.

There is much work ahead, and I am confident that with our collective expertise and our Virgin Islands pride we will surpass the expectations and challenges of the next 40 years. Our journey continues. Congratulations!

Warmest regards,

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol  
 Chairman  
 VIHFA Board of Directors



## Homes For All



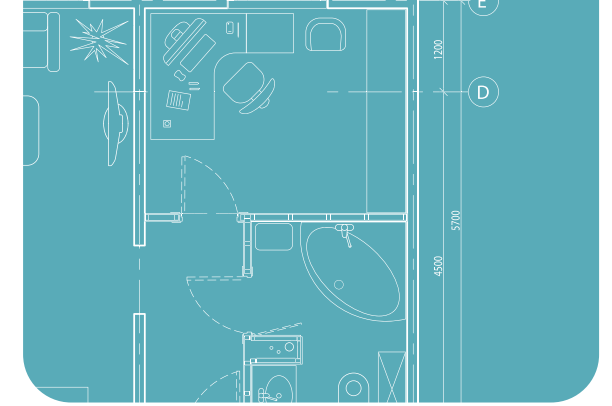
### **Mission Statement:**

Increase access to housing and community development opportunities by developing innovative programs and projects.

### **Vision Statement:**

The VIHFA aspires to be the premier self-reliant housing and community development agency fostering sustainable communities in the Territory.

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## VIHFA – History, Impact and Legacy

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) was founded in 1981 by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands through the enactment of Act No. 4636 – the Virgin Islands Homeowners Construction and Mortgage Assistance Act. In June 1984, the VIHFA officially opened its doors with a strong sense of purpose, to provide affordable housing to meet the needs of the low- and moderate-income housing in the territory.



For 40 years, the VIHFA has significantly and positively impacted the housing landscape in the U.S. Virgin Islands by addressing housing needs, promoting homeownership, and supporting community development. By providing essential housing services and promoting homeownership, the Authority has helped improve living conditions, fostered community development, and contributed to the economic stability of the region. In addition, through the Community Development Block Grant program, the Authority has been at the forefront of revitalizing slum and blighted areas throughout the Territory and fostering revival efforts in the communities.

### **Key Programs and Initiatives**

1. **Homeownership Programs:** Offering mortgage assistance, down payment, and closing cost assistance to first-time homebuyers.
2. **Rental Housing Programs:** Developing and managing affordable rental housing units for low and moderate-income families.
3. **Disaster Recovery:** Providing support for home repairs, rebuilding efforts, and disaster resilience initiatives following natural disasters.
4. **Community Development:** Implementing projects aimed at improving infrastructure, public facilities, and overall community well-being.
5. **Sustainable Housing:** Promoting green building practices and energy efficiency in housing projects to ensure long-term sustainability.
6. **Homeless Initiatives:** Providing support to non-profits and other non-governmental entities that assist the homeless or at-risk of homelessness.



## Founding and Early Years

1981 – Establishment: The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority was established by the Virgin Islands Legislature on October 20, 1981. The primary mission was to provide safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as to promote homeownership and community development.

**1980s: Initial Programs:** During its early years, VIHFA focused on launching various housing programs, including mortgage financing for first-time homebuyers and assistance for low and moderate-income families. The Authority worked closely with federal agencies to secure funding and support for these initiatives.

**Expansion of Services:** Throughout the 1980s, VIHFA expanded its services to include more comprehensive housing solutions. This included the development of rental housing units and programs to assist with home repairs and improvements. The authority also began focusing on community development projects to enhance the overall living conditions in the Virgin Islands.

“From the groundbreaking initiatives that have transformed neighborhoods to the partnerships we’ve built that ensure sustainable growth, we have always placed the needs of our people at the heart of what we do.”

**Valdez Shelford,**  
Chief Financial Officer

## Growth and Development

**1990s - Disaster Recovery and Housing Programs:** The 1990s saw the VIHFA playing a crucial role in disaster recovery efforts by providing emergency housing to families displaced by Hurricane Hugo (1989). Additionally, VIHFA continued to expand its mortgage and homeownership programs, making homeownership more accessible to a broader segment of the population.

## Modern Era

**2000s - Continued Growth and Challenges:** In the 2000s, the VIHFA continued to address the housing needs of the Virgin Islands’ residents. The Authority faced challenges related to economic fluctuations but remained committed to its mission. Programs were refined to better serve the community, and new initiatives were introduced to support sustainable housing development. These included the 2008 merger of the housing programs from the former Department of Housing, Parks, and Recreation (DHPR) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR). These services expanded VIHFA’s mission of increasing access to housing and community development opportunities by developing innovative programs and projects.

**2010s - Focus on Sustainability and Resilience:** In the 2010s, the VIHFA placed a greater emphasis on sustainability and resilience in housing development. The Authority began incorporating green building practices and energy-efficient technologies into its projects. Additionally, in 2018, tasked with administering the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, the VIHFA has been instrumental in leading disaster recovery efforts throughout the Territory and has continued to provide critical support to enhance mitigation endeavors and resiliency within the communities, which alleviates the impacts of future natural disasters.

## Recent Developments

**2020s -** In recent years, the VIHFA has continued to evolve, addressing contemporary housing challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on housing stability. The Authority has implemented various assistance programs to support homeowners and renters affected by the pandemic. Moreover, the VIHFA remains focused on expanding affordable housing options and improving the quality of life for residents in the Virgin Islands.

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority is dedicated to providing Homes For All and will continue addressing housing needs and promoting homeownership in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“VIHFA’s commitment to financing homeownership is essential for building resilient neighborhoods and improving the overall quality of life in our islands.”

**Anne-Marie Williams,**  
Energy Solutions Program  
Manager



Fortuna Town Homes

## Leading The Way

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority has executed its mandates under the leadership of some very driven, competent, highly motivated, innovative, multifaceted and learned professionals. These dedicated public servants led with a heart of service and leverage their direct experience from various disciplines which include - Government Operations, Housing and Urban Development, Construction Management, Project Management, Human Resource Management, Organizational Leadership and Development, Auditing, Finance and Executive Leadership. We honor their commitment and contribution in our quest to provide Homes For All.



**Earle B. Ottley**  
6/1/1984 – 5/31/1989



**Marjorie M. Caraballo**  
6/1/1989 – 12/31/1994



**Jose L. George**  
1/1/1995 – 8/28/1998



**Claude L. Richards, Jr.**  
8/29/1998 – 7/29/2001



**Clifford F. Graham**  
7/30/2001 – 4/18/2011



**Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien**  
4/19/2011 to 8/16/2011  
(Interim Executive Director)  
8/17/2011 to 8/16/16



**Daryl Griffith**  
8/17/2016 to 8/1/2017  
(Interim Executive Director)  
8/2/2017 to 2/15/2022



**Dayna M. Clendinen**  
Interim Executive Director  
2/16/2022 to 4/7/2024



**Eugene Jones Jr.**  
4/8/2024 – Present

## The Board

The Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) plays a critical role in guiding the organization’s mission to provide affordable housing solutions and promote homeownership opportunities in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Board is responsible for setting strategic priorities, overseeing the management of funds, approving policies and programs, and ensuring compliance with local and federal regulations. This body has been made up varied industry professionals, government partners and retired public sector executives – all who have a vested interest in success of the authority. In collaboration with the Executive Director, the Board helps shape the vision and direction of the Authority to meet the evolving housing needs of the community while fostering sustainable development and financial integrity.

### VIHFA Salutes and Honors our past and current Board of Directors:

Alicia Barnes  
Nellon L. Bowry  
Maureen Burke-Ventura\*  
Juan Centeno  
Earl de Windt  
Roland Euwema  
Jose L. George  
Debra Gottlieb  
Dawn Henry  
Ira Hobson

Calford S. Martin\*  
Calvert Martin  
Robert S. Mathes  
Ira Mills  
Alphonso Nibbs, Sr.  
Jennifer Nugent-Hill  
Jenifer O’Neal  
Keith O’Neale  
Stephanos O’Reilly  
Jean-Pierre L. Oriol\*

Denise R. Reovan, *Esquire*  
Julio Rhymer Sr. \*  
Elizabeth Sanchez  
Lowell O. Schuster  
Michael A. Simmonds  
Theodore A. Thomas  
Yvonne Turnbull  
Carmen Wesselhoft-Hedrington\*  
Pedro K. Williams, *Esquire*  
St. Claire N. Williams

\* Current Board Members



Board members of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority include (1 to r) **Michael A. Simmonds**, **Elizabeth Sanchez**, Executive Director of VIHFA and Secretary of the Board, **Theodore A. Thomas**, Hon. **Juan Centeno**, Chairman of the Board and **Jose George** for Hon. **Stephanos o’Reilly**, Vice Chairman. Not pictured is **Roland Euwema**





**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

We are thrilled to celebrate the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority's (VIHFA) 40th anniversary! This is a monumental achievement for our community. For four decades, VIHFA has dedicated itself to providing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families in our Territory.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, we look back with pride at all you have accomplished. From building homes that foster growth and security to creating opportunities that change lives—your mission of “Homes For All” remains steadfast.

In honor of this significant milestone, we are excited that you are hosting an array of celebratory activities designed to highlight past achievements and future endeavors. These events will provide moments for reflection as well as motivation; from dedicated services acknowledging partners' contributions—whose collaboration proves crucial—to engaging workshops aimed at fostering innovation within affordable housing solutions here in the Virgin Islands.

This anniversary provides an extraordinary opportunity to reflect on how far we've come while envisioning what lies ahead. A special highlight is the publication of your **40th Anniversary Commemorative Catalog** — which will be an exquisite chronicle documenting VIHFA's illustrious history over these four transformative decades. Here's wishing you continued success going forward toward another dynamic era.

With boundless enthusiasm,

  
**Albert Bryan Jr.**  
Governor



**OFFICE OF  
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
The United States Virgin Islands



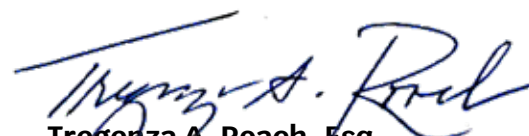
## MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

I am pleased to offer this message of congratulations to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority as you celebrate a milestone 40th anniversary. The Territory has benefitted tremendously from the productive services provided by the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, which are reflected in the numerous success stories of home ownership. Your commitment to providing “Homes For All” is commendable and noteworthy as you undertake this series of activities scheduled commemorating this accomplishment.

For more than 40 years, the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority has been a dependable and progressive agency that improves the lives of Virgin Islanders through low- and moderate-income housing opportunities. Giving our residents the chance to experience the immense pride of home ownership is a fulfilling and rewarding outcome for the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority and other community partners who collaborate to attain this goal. Most notable is the successful execution of the Territory-wide annual Housing Expo for the benefit of potential and existing homeowners.

I must commend the hardworking and dedicated staff of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority through the leadership of Executive Director Eugene Jones, Jr., along with former employees who have played an integral role in serving our community through the years. Understanding the dynamics and challenges endured during the process of purchasing a home allows you to utilize a compassionate approach when serving our community. The many success stories of home ownership would not have been possible without the committed involvement of the staff.

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority continues to do exemplary work in helping our Virgin Islands residents to pursue the American dream. Thank you for putting our community first. Congratulations on your 40 years of service.

  
**Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.**  
Lieutenant Governor





Congress of the United States  
House Of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515



### A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN STACEY E. PLASKETT

On behalf of the Members of the 118th Congress and my staff, I am pleased to extend my congratulations and well wishes to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) on its 40th anniversary of service in the Virgin Islands. As we continue to tackle the housing challenges that exist across our country and in our territory, it is important to recognize the work of agencies like VIHFA.

While it is widely known that homeownership is one of the primary ways to build wealth for future generations, our territory and we as Virgin Islanders continue to deal with numerous obstacles to achieving the goal of owning a home—be it inflation, a fluctuating housing market or high mortgage rates. There are scores of Virgin Islanders who consistently share stories of relocating to pursue their dream of homeownership. That is why work that VIHFA does is so valuable.

I am grateful for the opportunities and resources that the VIHFA continues to provide to advance the goal of homeownership for Virgin Islanders and the work done through their annual expos, particularly during National Homeownership Month. I commend the VIHFA leadership and team for their commitment to advancing the lives of Virgin Islanders through the funding of sustainable and safe communities over the past four decades.

Again, congratulations and best wishes on celebrating 40 years of service in the territory.

Sincerely,

**Stacey E. Plaskett**  
Delegate to Congress



**35TH LEGISLATURE OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
PRESIDENT



### MESSAGE FROM SENATE PRESIDENT NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.

It is with distinct pleasure that I congratulate the dedicated team of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority as they celebrate 40 years of service to our community.

For 40 years, the VIHFA has determinedly pursued its targeted objective of Homes for All. By creating welcoming spaces for women, men, and families to call their own, VIHFA has built hope, homes and dreams. Through your efforts that begin with supporting financial education, Virgin Islanders have been empowered with the pride of homeownership. The many achievements of the Housing Finance Authority reflect the hard work of a team, which stands on the shoulders of the men and women who shared a vision for all that the VIHFA could be.

The leadership of this agency has played a valuable role in the development of our community. Throughout VIHFA's history, they have built lasting relationships with partners and stakeholders and proven to be strong stewards of community development, affordable housing and financial management always for the benefit the people of the Virgin Islands.

It is my hope that this 40th Anniversary Celebration is a memorable occasion that honors the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority's accomplished past and celebrates its initiatives for the future. My congratulations to all on this milestone achievement.

Sincerely,

**Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**  
Senate President  
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands





**35TH LEGISLATURE OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
VICE-PRESIDENT



**VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



September 13, 2024

Congratulations VIHFA,

It is with great admiration and respect that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) on reaching the remarkable milestone of your 40th-year anniversary. This significant achievement stands as a powerful testament to your steadfast dedication to providing essential housing solutions and enhancing the lives of individuals and families in the vibrant Virgin Islands community.

I am thrilled to offer my enthusiastic congratulations to the distinguished new leadership of Mr. Eugene Jones as the Executive Director of VIHFA. His invaluable experience, exceptional leadership qualities, and visionary approach undoubtedly herald a new era of growth and impact for VIHFA. Under his guidance, I have no doubt that VIHFA will continue to thrive and make a profound difference in the lives of those you serve.

The unwavering commitment and tireless efforts of the VIHFA team have been the cornerstone of the organization's success over the past four decades. Your dedication has not only provided much-needed homes for countless families but has also ignited hope and opportunity throughout the community.

As you celebrate this historic milestone and embark on a promising future under new leadership, I commend you for your outstanding achievements and eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued positive transformation and success of VIHFA under Mr. Jones' exemplary leadership.

Congratulations once again on your 40th-year anniversary, and may this significant milestone mark the dawn of a new chapter filled with unparalleled growth, innovation, and triumph.

With utmost respect and admiration,

**Dwayne Alexander, CPM**  
Executive Director  
Virgin Islands Housing Authority

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

It is with great pride that I join thousands of Virgin Islanders in commemorating and honoring the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority's 40th year of service to our community. Over these last four decades, the Authority has been a beacon of light and hope for countless Virgin Islanders seeking to achieve the American Dream—the dream of owning one's home.

Beyond helping Virgin Islanders secure their place in this dream, the Authority has, in recent years, taken on an increasingly vital role in organizing the territory's response to natural disasters and driving mitigation efforts that lessen the impact of future incidents. From rebuilding homes in the wake of hurricanes to navigating the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, The V.I. Housing Finance Authority has evolved into an essential pillar in building the future of our community while safeguarding and protecting the achievements of our past.

As Chair of the Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications, I have had the privilege of working closely with the Authority and witnessing firsthand the professionalism and dedication of its leadership and staff. Your collective efforts have been nothing short of inspiring! There is no doubt that at times, our government has placed more responsibilities on the Authority than any single agency should be expected to bear. However, your steadfast resolve in shouldering these burdens has earned the undying gratitude of all Virgin Islanders.

As we look ahead to the next 40 years of service, I want to extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of the Virgin Islands Legislature and the entire community. The impact of your work goes far beyond numbers; it touches lives and fosters resilience in ways that are truly immeasurable. Your contributions to the betterment of this territory will continue to be cherished by the people we serve.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, and I wish the Virgin Islands Housing Authority continued success as you carry on this important work.

Good luck and Goodspeed!

Sincerely,

**Marvin A. Blyden**  
Chairman Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands





USVI Economic Development Authority  
VICE-PRESIDENT



### TO THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT, AND STAFF OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY:

On behalf of the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (USVIEDA), I congratulate the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) on celebrating your 40th anniversary. Over the past four decades, the VIHFA has played a pivotal role in assisting countless families in the U.S. Virgin Islands to realize their dream of homeownership. This milestone is a testament to your unwavering dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for our community.

Homeownership is not only a cornerstone of personal achievement and stability, but it is also a vital component of economic development. By helping Virgin Islanders to buy or build homes, the VIHFA has significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of our Territory. Homeownership fosters community investment, encourages financial security, and supports the growth of local businesses. Through these efforts, we can create a thriving, resilient economy for generations to come.

USVIEDA is proud to recognize VIHFA as a critical partner in our shared mission of economic development. As sister government agencies, we are united in our commitment to enhancing the quality of life and place for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our collaboration has been instrumental in completing the Vision 2040 plan, the Territory's first comprehensive 20-year economic development strategy, and advancing the goals set forth therein. This plan paves the way towards a prosperous future, rebuilding and strengthening our community following the devastating impacts of two (2) major Category 5 hurricanes in 2017.

The dedication and hard work of the entire VIHFA team have been integral to our collective success. Your efforts in administering programs that educate the community and provide homeownership opportunities have fostered hope and built a stable socioeconomic foundation for many Virgin Islanders. As we continue to fulfill the goals of Vision 2040, your role remains crucial in creating a pathway to sustainability and resiliency for our Territory.

Once again, congratulations on this significant 40th anniversary. USVIEDA looks forward to many more years of partnership and progress with the VIHFA, working together to build a vibrant and brighter future for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Best Regards,

*Wayne L. Biggs, Sr.*

**Wayne L. Biggs, Sr.**  
Chief Executive Officer





# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



■ Calabash Boom

# Program

**Mistress of Ceremony**

Keva Muller

**Invocation**

Pastor Patrick George

**National Anthem & Virgin Islands March**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Valdez Shelford  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**Remarks**

Hon. Jean Pierre Oriol, *Chairman of the VI Housing Finance Authority Board*  
 Hon. Stacey Plaskett, *Delegate to the U.S. Congress*  
 Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr., *Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States*

**Musical Selection**

**Dinner**

**Keynote Speaker**

Jennifer Nugent-Hill

**Recognition of Former Executive Directors**

Chivonne Moorhead, *Assistant Director of Federal Programs*  
 Earle B. Ottley (*Posthumously*)  
 Marjorie Magras  
 Jose L. George  
 Claude Richards, Jr.  
 Clifford Graham  
 Adrienne Willams-Octalien  
 Daryl Griffith  
 Dayna Clendinen

**Presentation of Honorees**

Janine Hector, *Director of Federal Programs*  
 Caribbean Center for Boys & Girls of the Virgin Islands, Inc.  
 Flavia Logie, Esq.  
 Northshore Partners  
 Carmen Wesselhoft-Hedrington  
 Robert Inda  
 Catholic Charities of the V.I.  
 St. John Rescue, Inc.  
 DWH Business Services, Inc.

**Closing Remarks**

Eugene Jones, Jr.  
*Executive Director*

**Benediction**

Pastor Patrick George



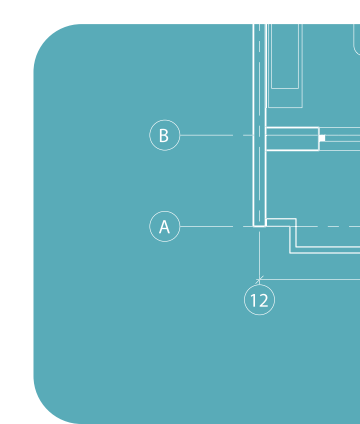
■ Amalie Terrace Apartments



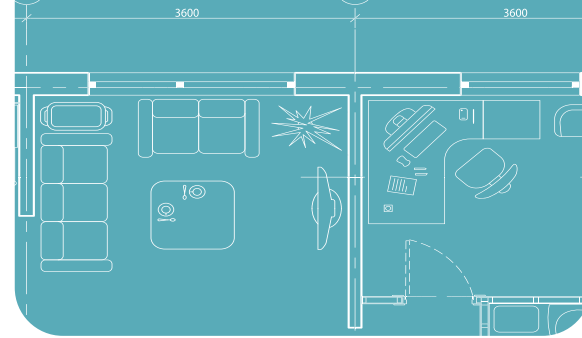
■ Queen St. (West) Townhomes



■ Bonne Esperance







## Testimonials – Current Employees

### Valdez Shelford, Chief Financial Officer

As I reflect on the 40-year journey of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA), I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the role this organization has played in shaping the future of the Virgin Islands. Over the years, we have remained committed to our core mission of providing affordable housing solutions and improving the quality of life for our communities.

In my time as Chief Financial Officer, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound impact VIHFA has made. From the groundbreaking initiatives that have transformed neighborhoods to the partnerships we've built that ensure sustainable growth, we have always placed the needs of our people at the heart of what we do.

This milestone is not just a celebration of our achievements but a testament to the resilience, dedication, and hard work of every individual who has contributed to our success.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of this incredible team. I continue to be encouraged by our work, impact and the dedication of the men and women that make up our team.

Happy 40th Anniversary, VIHFA! Here's to many more years of service and progress - building homes and futures for generations to come.

### Janine Hector, Federal Programs Director

It has been my honor to work at VIHFA for the past 33 years. Overall, it has been a rewarding experience primarily because of the personal satisfaction derived from being a part of an agency that has played such an important role in the community. Especially in the early years when the agency was very small, there was an unparalleled level of teamwork, camaraderie and singular commitment (focus) on the mission that I think contributed to impressive success. Although the workload can be challenging, I enjoy being able to provide quality service to our clients and subrecipients. As the main housing and community development agency in the Territory, VIHFA plays a key role in fostering sustainable communities. Whether through the development of new homes, the delivery of homebuyer education programs, the provision of mortgage financing and subsidy assistance, VIHFA's programs for first-time homebuyers assist in the creation of generational wealth. The local government also benefits through increased revenue streams from property taxes paid by new homeowners. On the community development side, various programs supported by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) deliver key services for youth, victims of domestic violence, the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness.



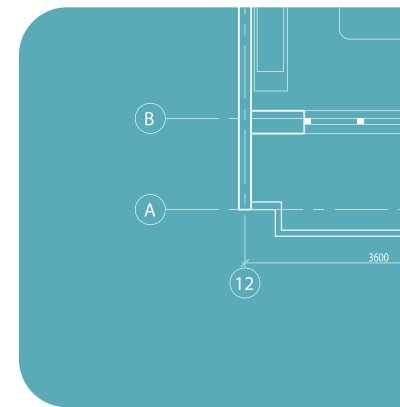
■ Clearview Apartments

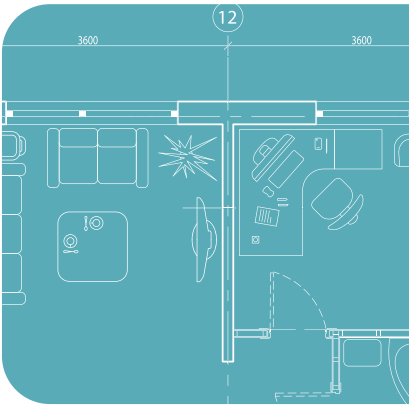
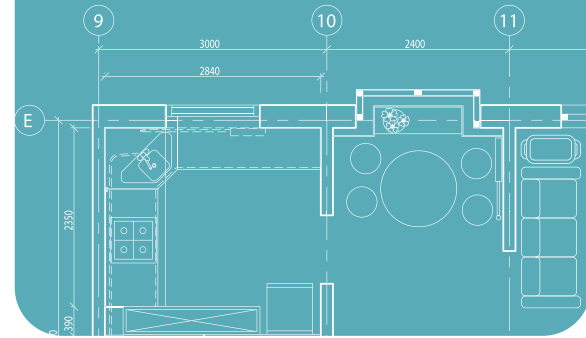
### Shakema Bastian, Internal Auditor

Working at VIHFA for the past 16 years has been an incredibly rewarding journey. Starting as a Collections and Service Processor II, I was engaged in the agency's vibrant culture, contributing to ongoing initiatives that made each day fulfilling. VIHFA stood out as one of the premier agencies in the VI, known for its commitment to building homes and fostering a workplace where every employee felt valued and respected as a vital partner. Everyone wanted to work here. The sense of community was apparent—we engaged in activities like beautifying the town homes area in Frederiksted, painting an elderly home, and organizing memorable events like the Housing Expo, summits, and ribbon cutting. It wasn't just work; it was a collaborative effort where we celebrated successes and supported each other through challenges. I am forever guided by our mission to increase access to housing and community development opportunities by developing innovative programs and projects, building on the foundation of teamwork and dedication that defines VIHFA.

### Anne-Marie Williams, Energy Solutions Program Manager

My work at VIHFA is engaging and is closely tied to the community's infrastructure and services. I appreciate both the challenges within the community and the opportunity to be part of the solution. Therefore, the sense of accountability is very high, as is the satisfaction of accomplishing small milestones. As an organization that provides financing for homeownership, VIHFA plays a crucial role in our community by promoting economic stability, enhancing access to quality education, fostering civic and social engagement, improving health and well-being, and supporting environmental sustainability. VIHFA's commitment to financing homeownership is essential for building resilient neighborhoods and improving the overall quality of life in our islands.





### **Jerrica Jarvis**, Administrative Assistant for Disaster Recovery Programs

Working at VIHFA has been a good experience for me. Our overall goal of wanting to help our community is a beautiful thing. I like how my small role plays a part in the overall impact of my home. Interacting with co-workers of varying personality types can be entertaining at times. The few team-building activities I've taken part in were fun and something to look forward to. I truly believe that VIHFA's impact is widespread. From educating our own on homeownership to helping in recovery efforts after disaster, VIHFA is an integral part in creating Homes For All.

### **Jennifer Jones**, CDBG Program Manager

My experience as an employee of the Authority has been quite interesting and rewarding. It is interesting because there is never a dull moment with clients, public hearings, solicitations, audits, and construction and public service projects. It is rewarding because, I serve my community. Even though, we do not get recognized enough for the tireless work that we do as public service employees. As the slogan goes "VIHFA, unlocking the door to affordable housing" and so much more!

### **Claudia Parson**, Executive Assistant

As we celebrate 40 years of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA), I am filled with deep admiration and pride for the work we have accomplished. Throughout my tenure as Executive Assistant, I've had the unique opportunity to support our leadership team and witness the positive changes VIHFA has brought to our islands.

Every day, I see the passion and dedication of our staff in their mission to provide affordable housing and improve lives in our community. The impact we've had is not just in the homes we've helped build, but in the dreams, we've helped make a reality for so many families. It's this commitment to service that defines VIHFA's legacy.

Celebrating 40 years is a true testament to the hard work and perseverance of everyone who has been a part of our journey. I am honored to be a member of this organization and look forward to supporting its continued success as we move forward into the future.

Happy 40th Anniversary, VIHFA! I am excited to see what we will accomplish in the years ahead.

## **Testimonials – Former Employees**

### **Yvonne Christopher, PHR** – Retired Employee

*Director of Human Resources – 2009-2017 & 2018-2023*

As the former Director of Human Resources at the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, it is an honor to celebrate the Authority's 40 years of service. Throughout my tenure, I was privileged to be part of an organization that not only aimed to meet the homeownership needs of our Territory, but also invested and cared deeply about the career development and well-being of its employees. The incredible strides made in offering affordable homeownership opportunities, supporting community development, and fostering economic growth are a true testament to the dedication and commitment of the entire Team.

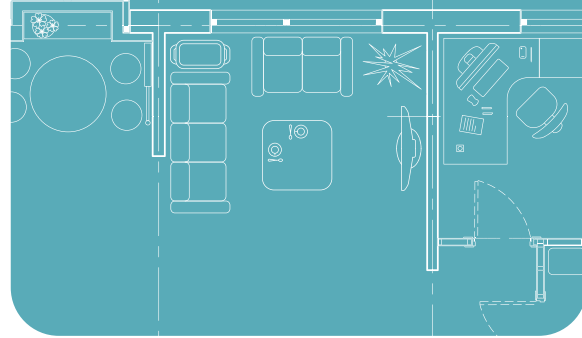
This 40th Anniversary marks a remarkable journey of resilience, growth, and unwavering service. I am confident VIHFA will continue its legacy, ensuring future generations have access to affordable housing and a brighter future. Congratulations on this milestone and thank you for all that you continue to do for the Virgin Islands!

### **Desirey Brooks**, – Retired Employee

As a proud retiree of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, I am honored to celebrate this remarkable milestone. Over the years, I witnessed firsthand the unwavering commitment to making homeownership dreams a reality for many Virgin Islanders. The supportive culture and dedicated leadership fostered an environment where employees could thrive and contribute meaningfully.

Reflecting on my years of service, I cherished the relationships built and the countless memories made. VI Housing Finance Authority not only shaped my career but also instilled in me the values of teamwork and integrity. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such a remarkable agency. Congratulations to everyone at VIHFA on 40 years of Success!





**Condon John**, Retired Employee - October 1, 1991 – June 30, 2022

**40 Years of Excellence: A Tribute to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority**

Congratulations to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority on celebrating 40 remarkable years of dedicated service! For four decades, you have been a cornerstone of our community, tirelessly working to turn the dream of homeownership into a reality for countless individuals and families across the Virgin Islands.

Having worked in various departments: Accounting, Special Projects, Homeownership, and Communications—I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact of our work. A highlight of my career was collaborating with Mrs. Audrey Morton to create the Educational Arm of the Authority in 1994. This initiative has grown into a successful program that continues to empower homeowners to obtain their piece of paradise.

Your commitment to excellence has provided invaluable housing solutions and significantly contributed to the economic and social well-being of our community. The journey to homeownership is often filled with challenges, but the expert guidance and unwavering support from the Authority have illuminated the path for many.

Your success is not merely measured by the number of homes financed but by the countless lives touched and the communities strengthened. The stories of families celebrating the joy of owning their first home, supported by the resources and education we've provided, are testaments to your extraordinary work as an agency.

As you celebrate this significant milestone, I extend my deepest gratitude for your relentless dedication and exceptional service. Here's to honoring our incredible legacy and to many more years of making dreams come true for the people of the Virgin Islands.

**Our  
Communities  
and  
Developments  
through the  
Decades**







▪ Mt Pleasant West

## St. Croix

### 1984 - 1994

Estate Mount Pleasant Homes  
 Estate Work and Rest Homes  
 Estate Barron Spot Homes  
 Princess Villas  
 Estate St. George Homes  
 Carib Villas, I, II, III, IV - 233-244 Estate Golden Rock  
 Hannahs Rest  
 \* Lagoon Street and Water gut Rental Communities  
 \*\* Concordia Emergency Housing

**96 Units**  
**50 Units**  
**10 Units**  
**24 Units**  
**61 Units**  
**96 Units**  
**1 Unit**  
**174 Units**  
**165 Units**

\* These properties were developed by the Virgin Islands Housing Review Board and VIHFA became the successor and now manages the development.

\*\* This development was a FEMA Initiative. Once completed they property was turned over to the Government of the Virgin Islands. The land that the property is on is under VIHFA's portfolio and is currently being managed by the Authority.

\*\*\* These properties were acquired by the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority from the then Housing, Parks and Recreation.

### 1995 - 2004

Concordia Villas (homes) - Estate Concordia  
 Concordia West Lots - Estate Concordia  
 Mount Pleasant Phase II - Estate Mount Pleasant  
 Mount Pleasant Phase III - Estate Mount Pleasant  
 Croixville Apartments (LIHTC) - 14B Estate Plessen Croixville  
 Concordia Manor I, II, III, IV (LIHTC) -  
 125 Estate Concordia  
 135 Estate Concordia  
 141 Estate Concordia  
 148 Estate Concordia  
 Breezewood Villas I, II (LIHTC) - 126 estate Concordia  
 Carib Villas/Harborview (LIHTC) - 233-244 Estate Golden Rock  
 Carib Villas II, III, IV (LIHTC) -  
 Grand Princess Manor (LIHTC) - 221A Lagrande Princess  
 Grand Princess Villas (LIHTC) - 221 Lagrande Princess  
 Stony Ground Villas (LIHTC) - #4 Estate Welcome  
 Orange Grove Villas I, II (LIHTC) - 221A Laorangee Grove  
 \*\* (LIHTC) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

**33 Units**  
**45 Units**  
**22 Units**  
**84 Units**  
**80 Units**

### 2005-2014

Strand Street (C'sted) townhouses - Strand Street  
 Queen Street (F'sted) townhouses - Queen Street  
 Renaissance (F'sted) townhouses  
 Mount Royal Vista (Herman Hill) lots - Herman Hills  
 Est. Solitude Homes (C'sted) - Solitude  
 Louis E. Brown I, II, III (LIHTC)  
 \*\*\* Campo Rico Emergency Housing  
 \*\*\* Prophet Emergency Housing  
 \*\*\* Anna's Hope Emergency Housing

**8 Units**  
**8 Units**  
**10 Units**  
**20 Units**  
**6 Units**  
**232 Units**  
**16 Units**  
**12 Units**  
**16 Units**

### 2015 - 2024

Cotton Valley Lots - Cotton Valley  
 Bonne Esperance Homes and Lots - Bonne Esperance  
 Morning Glory  
 (Mount Pleasant West IV) Homes and Lots - Estate Mount Pleasant  
 Princess Villas - (LIHTC)  
 Anna's Hope Villas - (LIHTC) - Anna's Hope  
 Walter IM Hodge - (LIHTC) - Walter IM

**16 Units**  
**66 Units**  
**40 Units**  
**48 Units**  
**38 Units**  
**248 Units**



▪ Anna's Hope Villas

## St. Thomas

### 1984 - 1994

Wintberg Heights Condo  
 Spring Hill Condo - Hospital Ground  
 Lindberg Bay  
 Blue Water Crest - Estate Fortuna  
 Annas Fancy - Annas Fancy  
 Savan - Savan  
 Demarara Homes  
 Hillside Village Condo  
 Towers Condo  
 Fortuna Vista Lots  
 Hospital Ground  
 Dorothea Phase I Lots  
 Dorothea Phase II Lots

**16 Units**  
**51 Units**  
**2 Units**  
**23 Units**  
**8 Units**  
**7 Units**  
**17 Units**  
**58 Units**  
**4 Units**  
**132 Lots**  
**5 Units**  
**16 Lots**  
**12 Lots**

### 1995 - 2004

Abbey Hill Homes  
 Annasville Condos  
 Fortuna Town Homes  
 Hillside Village Condos  
 Waterbay Condos  
 Abbey Hill lots  
 Anna's Retreat lots  
 Mariendahl lots  
 Clearview Apartments (LIHTC) - 107-6 Upper Contant  
 Lovenlund Apartments (LIHTC) - #3 Estate Lovenlund  
 Sunrise Cove Apartments (LIHTC) - 26 Lower John Dunko

**44 Units**  
**99 Units**  
**22 Units**

### 2005-2014

Est. Nazareth Lots - Estate Nazareth  
 Polyberg (rent to own) - Estate Ross & Madamberg  
 Amalie Terrace (LIHTC) - Hospital Ground  
 Altona (LIHTC) - Altona  
 Grandview I, II (LIHTC) - Estate Donoe  
 Sugar Estate Senior Housing (LIHTC) - Estate Thomas  
 \*\*\* Charlotte Apartments Emergency Housing  
 \*\*\* Staabiland Emergency Housing

**54 Units**  
**8 Units**  
**72 Units**  
**80 Units**  
**30 Units**  
**3Units**

### 2015 - 2024

Whispering Hills - Estate Donoe  
 Wild Pineapple - Estate Fortuna  
 Magens Junction I (LIHTC) - Estate Lovenlund  
 Magens Junction II (LIHTC) - Estate Lovenlund

**48 Units**  
**60 Units**

## St. John

### 1984 - 1994

Cruz Bay Villas

**24 Units**

### 1995 - 2004

Bellevue Village - 9-41 Estate Bellevue

**72 Units**

### 2005-2014

Calabash Boom Town Homes - #1 & 2 Estate Calabash  
 Calabash Boom Apartments - (LIHTC) - #1 & 2 Estate Calabash  
 George Simmonds Terrace (Rent to Own) - Estate Adrian

**24 Units**  
**48 Units**





## *Funding Our Future*

VIHFA remains steadfast in our commitment to increase access to housing and community development opportunities in the territory. Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond. We are excited to announce several impactful, innovative and transformative initiatives and projects that will yield positive results for the development and housing landscape of the territory. Visit our website at [www.vihfa.gov](http://www.vihfa.gov) for more information on all of our programs.



## *VIHFA Leads Territory's Transformation Through Housing and Infrastructure Development*

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) has been at the forefront of a major transformation in the territory, using disaster recovery and mitigation funding to rebuild housing and bolster infrastructure. In the past year alone, VIHFA has made significant strides, contributing to stabilizing the Virgin Islands' energy grid, enhancing housing opportunities, and preparing the community for future disasters.



## Disaster Recovery and Housing Milestones

VIHFA's role extends far beyond energy infrastructure, with a significant focus on housing development and disaster recovery. Through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, VIHFA has made substantial progress in developing resilient, affordable housing for the territory.

- **Resilient Multifamily Housing Program:** With \$152 million allocated, this program has been a cornerstone of VIHFA's housing efforts, creating opportunities for homeownership and enhancing affordable housing across the islands. This initiative prioritizes low-to-moderate-income families, ensuring that everyone has a safe place to call home.
- **Workforce Development:** In partnership with local organizations, VIHFA's Skills for Today/On-The-Job Training Program has empowered over 800 residents to gain skills in high-demand fields such as electrical work, plumbing, and IT. This \$9 million investment is creating a sustainable, skilled labor force to support the territory's growing infrastructure needs.
- **Economic Resilience and Revitalization Program:** VIHFA has also been active in strengthening local businesses, allocating \$16.7 million to support 29 businesses under the CDBG-MIT program. This initiative enhances food security, emergency response capabilities, and critical infrastructure, positioning the Virgin Islands to better withstand future disasters.

As VIHFA looks ahead, it's leadership team is working to attract even more investment into the territory and find opportunities in disaster recovery funds, tax credits, and other financial resources. The goal is clear: to create sustainable, resilient housing developments that build strong, enduring communities.

Among the highly anticipated projects is the Lovenlund Development, set to break ground later this year. This development will provide essential housing for families and further VIHFA's mission of rebuilding the Virgin Islands with a focus on resilience and sustainability. Other projects, such as the development at Estate Fortuna, will provide single-family homes that are fully integrated with local infrastructure and services, avoiding the isolation that can occur in remote housing developments.



The acquisition, which involved a complex deal totaling \$100 million for the purchase and an additional \$45 million reimbursed to the Virgin Islands government, was crucial in strengthening the territory's energy infrastructure.

Securing this funding ensured that the Virgin Islands avoided what could have been much more severe consequences for the community. "This funding was a lifeline for our community. By investing in our energy infrastructure, we are positioned to better protect the Virgin Islands from the devastating effect of future storms," said Dayna Clendinen, VIHFA's Chief Disaster Recovery Officer.

Energy infrastructure remains a key priority for VIHFA, with substantial investments also made to improve the territory's power generation capabilities. VIHFA has allocated \$53 million to the Estate Richmond Power Plant on St. Croix, tackling long-standing issues with power generation. Additionally, the \$10 million Community Electrical Innovation Program is set to provide solar and battery installations to schools, senior centers, and nonprofits serving low-to-moderate-income communities, ensuring that these essential services can continue to operate even during disasters.

As the territory moves into 2025, VIHFA is poised to close deals, break ground, and continue its mission of creating safe, functional housing and infrastructure for the people of the Virgin Islands. Significant developments are planned for key locations, including Estate Donoe, Mount Pleasant, and Polyberg Hill, all of which will provide vital housing opportunities for the community.

VIHFA's holistic strategy—combining housing, infrastructure, and workforce development—ensures that the Virgin Islands will set the standard for resilience and opportunity for generations to come.











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