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VIHFA Launches \$10 Million Community Electrical Innovation Program to Strengthen Energy Resilience in the USVI

U.S. Virgin Islands – As part of its commitment to funding the future of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) is pleased to announce the launch of the Community Electrical Innovation Program (CEIP), a groundbreaking initiative designed to enhance energy resilience for organizations that serve vulnerable communities. This program, made possible through a \$10 million allocation from the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Electric Grid (E-Grid) funding, will provide critical energy solutions, including the installation of rooftop solar and battery energy storage systems for eligible organizations.

The Community Electrical Innovation Program, administered by the Virgin Islands Energy Office (VIEO) as a subrecipient to the grant, with the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) as the grantee, will operate from March 2025 through June 2029.

Investing in Resilient Communities:

Many organizations lack the resources to invest in backup power solutions, making them more vulnerable during outages. Through this program, VIHFA is funding the future by ensuring community organizations have access to sustainable, cost-effective energy solutions that enhance their ability to serve the people of the Virgin Islands. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Daycares & Head Start programs
- Homeless shelters & transitional housing facilities
- Retirement homes & assisted living facilities
- Healthcare clinics & community centers
- Educational institutions & nonprofit organizations

By investing in solar and battery storage technology, VIHFA is paving the way for a stronger, more resilient Virgin Islands—one where organizations can continue to serve their communities without the fear of losing power.

Application & Program Timeline

- Application intake begins in June 2025 in paper format and digitally at <https://energy.vi.gov/>.
- Eligible entities will be selected based on program criteria, including impact on LMI communities, project feasibility, and energy resilience benefits
- VIEO will oversee the technical implementation and compliance, ensuring projects align with local and federal energy sustainability goals

For a comprehensive overview of the program, please see the USVI Electrical Grid Action plan at <https://cdbgdv.vihfa.gov/cdbg-electrical/>. Any program inquiries can be directed to egrid@vihfa.gov or media@vihfa.gov.