



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)



VIEDA's Economic
Development Bank
Available Loans



Updates on VIEDA's
EZC's Processing Plant



USDA's NRCS Programs



Virgin Islands
Department of
Agriculture



USDA's Rural
Development Programs



Plow to Plate Program
by World Central
Kitchen



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

Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

Information provided by:
Deputy Commissioner
Hannah Carty



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**

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

➤ **From the USDA: COVID-19 resource guide**

https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/ordredirect.html?open&id=COVID-19_USDA_Federal-Resource-Guide.html



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

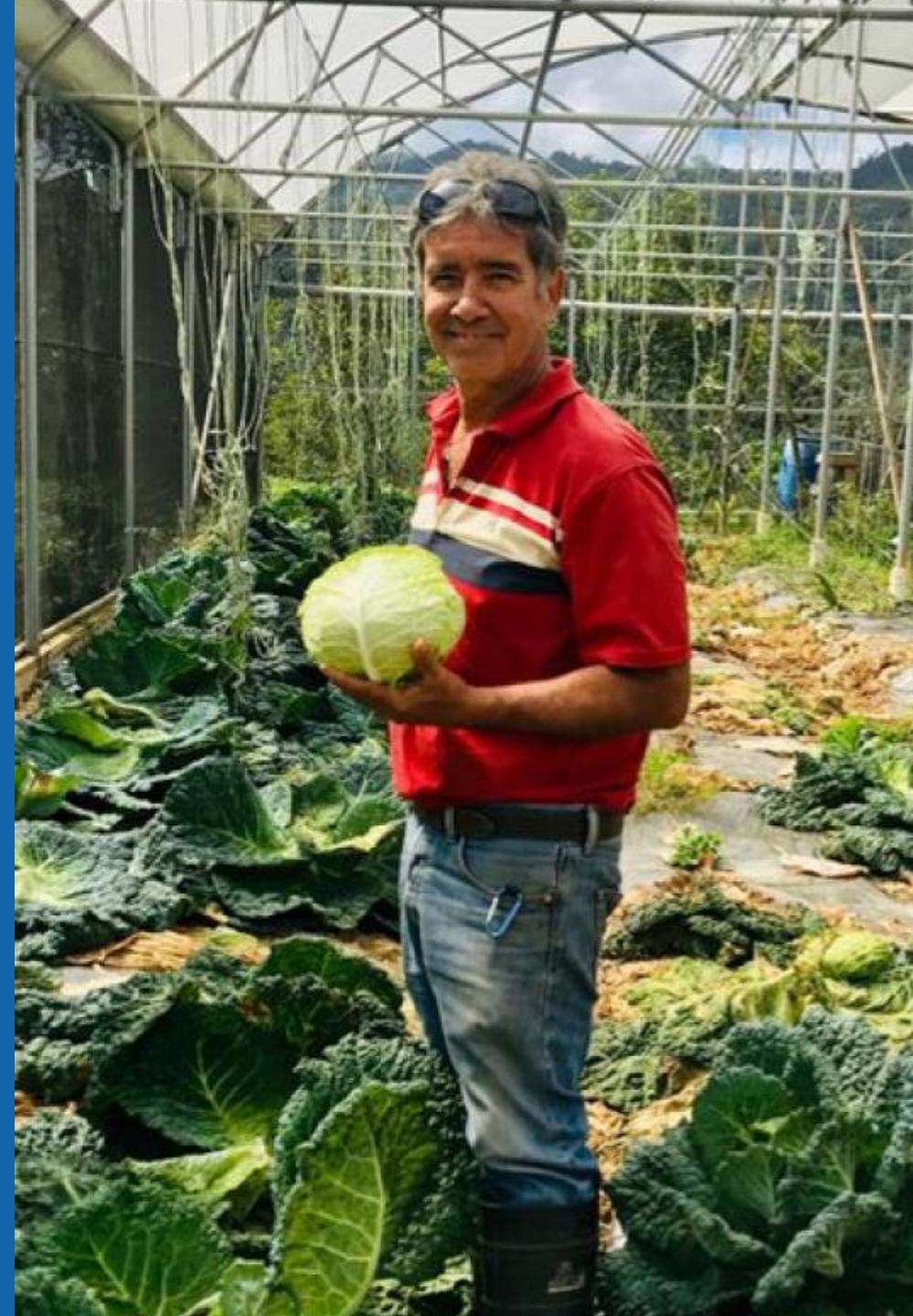


**World
Central
Kitchen**

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**





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Apply Today!

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

Deadline is April 30th at 11:59pm

Questions? Email us at
usvi@wck.org



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Assistance

Rural Development

Rena Elias

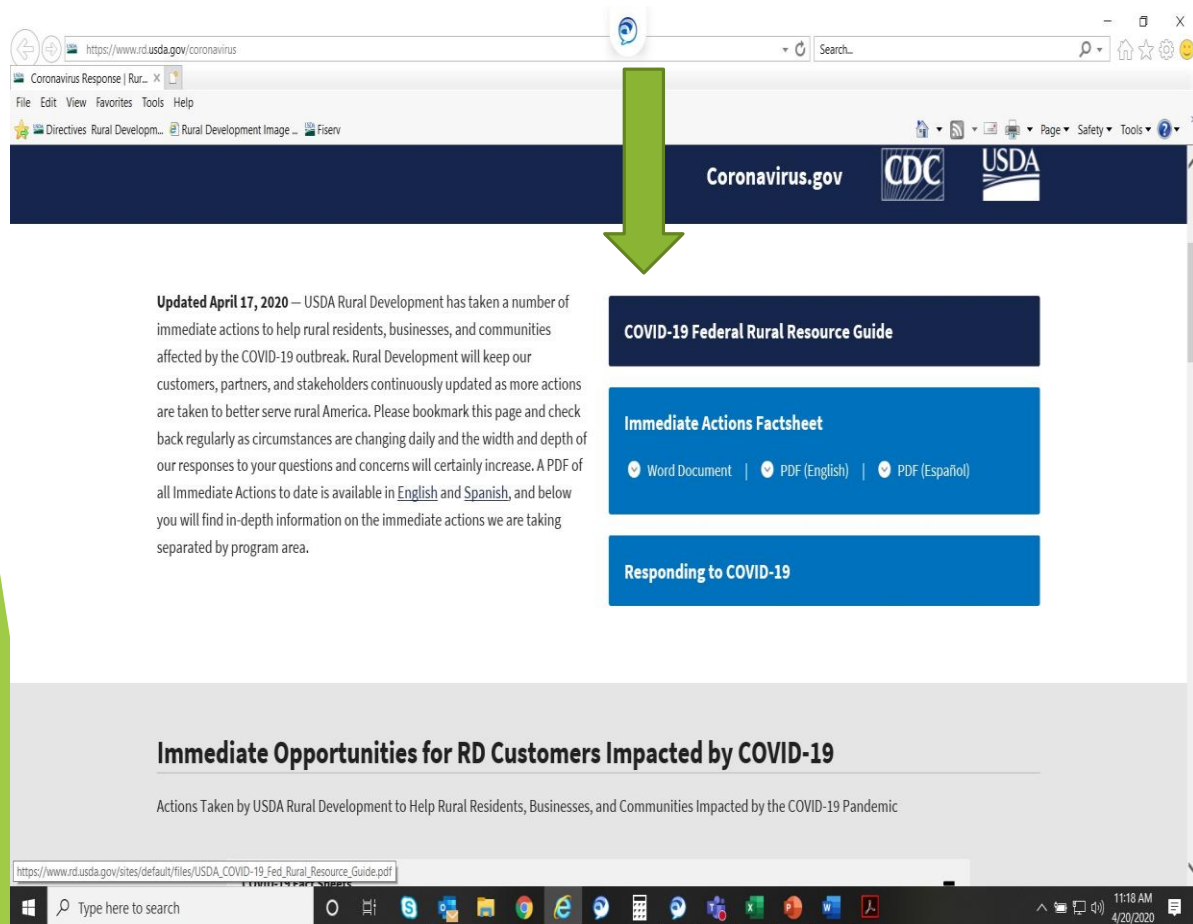
Area VII – U.S. Virgin Islands

RD's COVID 19 Response:

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

COVID-19 FEDERAL RESOURCE GUIDE

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



Updated April 17, 2020 — USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Please bookmark this page and check back regularly as circumstances are changing daily and the width and depth of our responses to your questions and concerns will certainly increase. A PDF of all Immediate Actions to date is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and below you will find in-depth information on the immediate actions we are taking separated by program area.

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

Immediate Actions Factsheet

Word Document | PDF (English) | PDF (Español)

Responding to COVID-19

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

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.

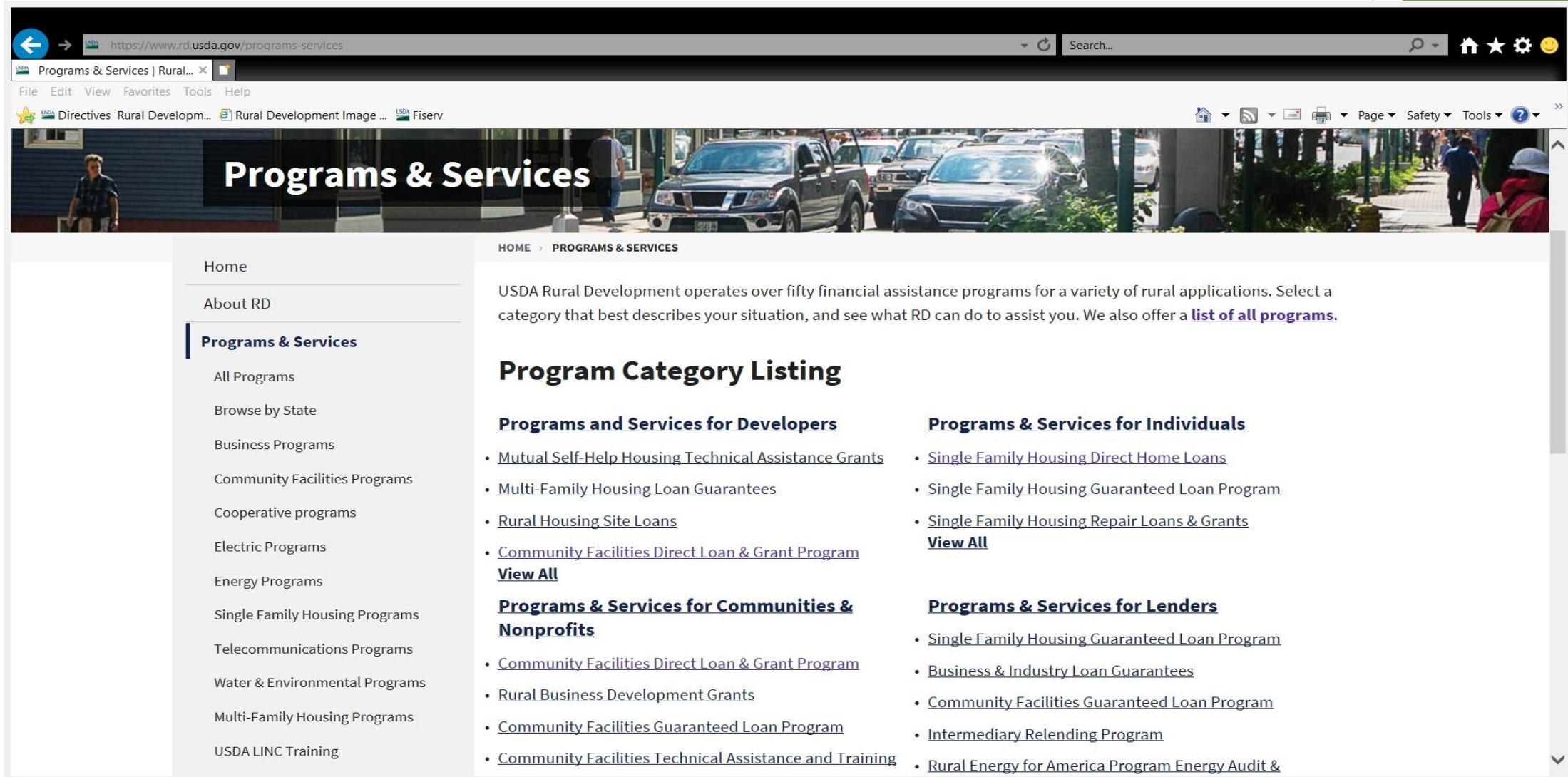
This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

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>



The screenshot shows the USDA Rural Development website's 'Programs & Services' page. The browser address bar displays the URL <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>. The page has a header with the title 'Programs & Services' and a background image of a rural street scene. A left-hand navigation menu lists various categories, with 'Programs & Services' currently selected. The main content area, titled 'HOME > PROGRAMS & SERVICES', provides an overview of the financial assistance programs and includes a 'Program Category Listing' with three columns of links.

Programs & Services

Home

About RD

Programs & Services

- All Programs
- Browse by State
- Business Programs
- Community Facilities Programs
- Cooperative programs
- Electric Programs
- Energy Programs
- Single Family Housing Programs
- Telecommunications Programs
- Water & Environmental Programs
- Multi-Family Housing Programs
- USDA LINC Training

HOME > 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](#).

Program Category Listing

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](#)
- [View All](#)

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 Individuals

- [Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans](#)
- [Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants](#)
- [View All](#)

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)
 - ✓ Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants (DLT) – application deadline July 13, 2020.
Webinar on May 5th.

**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

Contacts:

Kimme Bryce
Area Director
Kimme.Bryce@usda.gov

Rena Elias
Area Specialist
Rena.elias@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 ruralAmerica.

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

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a coconut tree. The image shows several clusters of green, unripe coconuts hanging from the branches. The palm fronds are long and feathery, and the trunk of the tree is visible in the lower right. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

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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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave., SWQ, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

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



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