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BLOG **November 13, 2026**

What Economic Development Incentives Can Mean for Our Community

Entrepreneurship Month Series | Part 2 of 2

When a business chooses to invest in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the opportunity can extend beyond its front door. A growing company may need employees, equipment repairs, transportation, accounting services, catering, and other support. Those needs can create openings for residents and local entrepreneurs to participate in that growth. That is the community connection explored in the VIEDA's Entrepreneurship Month video, "What Incentives Can Mean for Our Community." The discussion asks an important question: What does the Territory receive in return? The answer centers on the results that investment can support: employment, skills development, opportunities for local suppliers, and stronger communities. Turning that potential into meaningful benefits also requires attention to commitments and accountability.

One Growing Business, Several Possible Opportunities

Consider an illustrative example from the video: a business producing and packaging a product. Its growth may create a position for an employee working directly in the business. It may also generate work for a repair technician who keeps equipment operating or a designer who develops packaging. Each role represents a different way to participate in economic activity. Some opportunities may be jobs within a company, while others may be contracts for independent professionals or small businesses. The example shows how the needs of one enterprise can reach into the wider business community. These are possible opportunities, rather than promised outcomes. Their value depends on the business's actual operations, purchasing decisions, and ability to connect with local talent and services.

Employment, Skills, and Advancement

For residents, business investment can open pathways to employment and professional growth. A job can provide an opportunity to gain practical experience, learn new processes, and build skills that support future advancement. The video brings employment, skills, and advancement into the same conversation because the community benefit is broader than filling a position. Helping people develop their capabilities can strengthen both the individual worker and the business that relies on that talent. For entrepreneurs, this connection is equally important. As a company grows, preparing employees to take on new responsibilities can help the business meet changing needs and build a stronger team.

Local Businesses Can Become Suppliers

A business does not operate alone. It often depends on other businesses to deliver goods and services that keep daily operations moving. The video highlights accounting, maintenance, transportation, and catering as examples of services local entrepreneurs may provide. These connections can allow smaller enterprises to participate in investment activity even when they are not the company making the initial investment. For a local business owner, the practical question becomes: What does a growing company need, and how can my business help meet that need? Understanding those needs can help entrepreneurs identify potential customers, communicate their capabilities, and prepare for opportunities to supply goods or services.







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Investment in Our Communities

The video also connects business investment with the places where residents live, work, and shop. Businesses, employees, and suppliers are part of the same community. When investment supports productive activity and local participation, its potential benefits can reach beyond a single company. That is why conversations about economic development incentives should include the people and enterprises that may benefit from business growth. The goal is to help create opportunities that residents can recognize in their working lives and local business communities.

Results Matter

Potential alone is not the measure of success. The video emphasizes three areas that matter when considering results: investment delivered, employment commitments met, and obligations followed. These points keep accountability at the center of the discussion. The value of an incentive should be considered alongside what a participating business commits to do and whether those commitments are fulfilled. Community benefits should be connected to actual performance, rather than assumed from an announcement.

Build Opportunity Here at Home

Economic development incentives are one part of a larger effort to support business investment and opportunity in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their community value comes into focus through the people employed, the skills developed, the local businesses engaged, and the commitments fulfilled.

Watch "**What Incentives Can Mean for Our Community**", to explore these connections, and visit **usvieda.org** to learn more about VIEDA's programs and services.



Ready to establish, expand, or relocate your business in the U.S. Virgin Islands?
Through its VIEDC program, VIEDA offers tax incentives to qualifying businesses to encourage investment, create jobs, and support economic growth in the Territory.
Explore how the VIEDC Program can support your business goals while contributing to the U.S. Virgin Islands community.

Learn more at www.usvieda.org or email info@usvieda.org.
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