Supporting Virgin Islands' COVID-19 Dislocated Workers

Territory wide

Project Summary (Need)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Virgin Islands, as of April 5th, had 42 confirmed cases. The Virgin Islands Department of Labor (VIDOL) projects that 11,000 jobs may be lost as a result of COVID-19. Impacted industries include hotels, hospitality, travel, tourism, restaurants, and transportation. The workforce community will be assisting the most vulnerable job seekers, those who have lost their regular employment and those who are not eligible for unemployment nor have any other viable means of support to find temporary employment in a safe environment.

Disaster Relief Employment

The VI Department of Labor (VIDOL) is proposing both disaster-relief and humanitarian assistance employment. Disaster-relief employment will focus on employment of eligible individuals for deep cleaning of shuttered schools, university facilities, government buildings, houses of worship, hospitals, health care facilities, and transportation service providers. VIDOL is also proposing to deep clean critical private industries, such as closed hotels so they can reopen and employ recently furloughed and dislocated workers. Humanitarian employment will target eligible professional and skilled individuals to augment vital public services. Envisioned employment includes staff augmentation for Unemployment Insurance processing and professional, administrative, management and technical support for police, fire, rescue, emergency medicine, healthcare, and the Department of Health.

Eligible Participants

Workers laid off due to quarantine orders or business closures related to disruptions caused by the outbreak are eligible participants. Also eligible are workers unable to go to their regular workplace due to social distancing requirements, as well as those missing work to care for a family member.

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