



Getting the USVI Back to Work

Presenter: Gary Molloy, Commissioner

VI Department of Labor

Revenue Estimating Conference- June 2, 2020

Objective



- Review the 2019/2020 Workforce Development Highlights
- Identify the Occupational Groups Most Impacted by COVID-19
- Outline the Workforce Strategy to address employment shortfall in the short term

2019/2020 Workforce Development Highlights

2019 Accomplishments

- **Pinnacle, LLC.** (NCCER) Certification-Construction Industry
- Netwave Fiber Optics Technician Certification
- **Wheatley Skills Center** Training in the following areas:
 - Computer Applications
 - Medical Administrative Assistant/Coding Specialist
 - Phlebotomy
 - Clinical Medical Assistant
 - CompTIA IT Fundamentals Certification
- **Gold Coast Yachts**-Paid Work Experience Program
- Solar Energy Panel Installation Program –Cohort 1 of 4.
- Summer Youth Work Experience Program, Internships & Other Programs- 705 youths served in 2019

2020 Accomplishments

- Continue to work with ICF to identify potential OJT employers
- Working with Cenus2020 to hire 300 employees in each district
- Ten (10) DDWG participants hired permanently (all within government service)
- Continue to work with UI on applications submission process

A signpost with two yellow directional signs is centered in the frame. The top sign points left and contains the text 'Where Are'. The bottom sign points right and contains the text 'We Now?'. The background is a blurred city street at night with light trails from traffic and building lights.

Where Are

We Now?

Unemployment Insurance Claims

week ending 5/31/2020

Applications

Area	
Virgin Islands	10,015
St. Croix	3,356 (34%)
St. Thomas/St. John	6,659 (66%)

Area	New Claims 3/8/2020 – 5/31/2020
Virgin Islands	6,292
St. Croix	1,711 (27%)
St. Thomas	3,724 (59%)
St. John	490 (8%)
Interstate	372 (6%)

- The VIDOL Unemployment Insurance Program has issued **\$10,776,600.00** in Federal Pandemic Unemployment.
- The VIDOL has issued approximately **\$5,316,188.00** in regular unemployment insurance payments.

Labor Force as of April 2020

The unemployment rate for the Virgin Islands increased to 8.4%.

The increase is driven by a large increase in unemployed residents. From March to April, the unemployed population had an increase of 67.0%.

On the employment side, VI saw this population decline from 43,609 to 39,922, a decrease of 8.5%.

Sectors Most Impacted by COVID-19

Job losses were only in the private sector of the economy.

Within the private sector, leisure and hospitality led with the largest decline (-1,485), followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (-971), construction (-220), other services (-182), education and health services (-110) and financial activities (-103).

Smaller decreases were in information (-50), professional and business services (-31) and manufacturing (-20). Public sector employment remained unchanged.

Occupational Outlook

Workforce Strategy to Address COVID-19 Impact

What Skills Are Needed?

Skills & Abilities Needed:

- Time Management Skills
- Project Management Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Data Gathering & Business Analysis Skills
- Influencing/Selling Skills
- Communication Skills

Character Traits

- Self Starter
- Self-driven; Motivated
- Change Agile
- Flexible
- Good Networkers
- Entrepreneurial

In addition to **Career and Life Skills** needed to be successful!

Resume Writing

Job Search

Interviewing Techniques

Living on a Budget/Financial Literacy



Views

V.I. Electronic Workforce System

Desired Occupations of U.I. Applicants in Views - OCC GROUP

Application Date:

3/1/2020 to 5/17/2020

Occupation	Total U.I. Applicants
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	749
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	693
Sales and Related Occupations	477
Construction and Extraction Occupations	448
Management Occupations	443
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	335
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occup.	203
Personal Care and Service Occupations	184
Production Occupations	161
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	148

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Workforce Strategy - Short-term

- Leverage data from UI/VIEWS system to target candidates for temporary employment opportunities under National Dislocated Worker Grant (award received May 2020).
- Procure Project Manager to build capacity to support successful execution of workforce programs during COVID 19.
- Implement Tranche 1 and 2 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in partnership with VIFHA:
 - Tranche 1: Skills and Occupational Training
 - Tranche 2: On the Job Training (5-6 months)
- Continue partnership with ICF and UVI to build out Hospitality and Cyber Security Apprenticeship Programs
- Leverage Workforce 180 for employer/job seeker education and outreach
- VIDOL will leverage unexpended WIOA funds that are available until June 30, 2020 for IT infrastructure to support virtual communications and enable remote access.

NATIONAL
DISLOCATED
WORKER
GRANT
(DWG)

Number of Planned Participants			
Project	Minimum	Maximum	Primary worksite supervisors
Testing Plan	5	8	Department of Health
Sanitizing and deep cleaning	TBD	TBD	Department of Education
Unemployment insurance processing	15	20	Department of Labor
Thermal security monitoring		27	Port Authority
General clean up		20	Office of the Governor
Asset mapping	3	5	Department of Labor and ICF
Total	23	80	

- **AWARD AMOUNT:** \$1.5 million
- **Maximum \$:** \$20,000 per participant
- **Maximum (Hours):** 2080
- **Purpose:** Disaster-relief and humanitarian assistance employment

Factors Impacting Return to Work

- Health and Safety of the Work Environment/PPE
- Increase Demand for Automation and Utilization of IT platforms for Communication
- External Volatility of GERS
- Employer Overhead Costs to Operate
- Concerns Regarding Childcare & Transportation
- Family Members affected by COVID-19/Quarantine
- Overall Fear of Being Around Others
- Company Restructuring of Jobs/Hours/Wages due to Temporary Suspension of the Plant Closing Act for 120 Days