



For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

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The USVI Department of Human Service's Office of Child Care & Regulatory Service Updates Requirements for Family, Friends and Neighbors Block Grant

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — Today, the Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services, that administers the Family, Friends and Neighbors (FFN) portion of the Block Grant announced changes to the application limits for kids.

For the summer months, the federally funded program provided childcare subsidies for approved parent applicants and family, friend or neighbor (informal) applicants. The summer funding covered kids aged zero (0) – twelve (12). **As of September 1, 2020, the age limit has been reduced to children ages zero (0) to five (5) due to the start of the fall (20/21) school year. This change is mandated by federal requirements. Additionally, the FFN program will cover kids aged zero to twelve (0 – 12) for post work-day hours (4 p.m. – 7 a.m.).** Eligible applicants can get up to eight hours of care covered.

Special Applicant Requirements:

- 1) Informal Provider/FFN Application for Parents
- 2) Informal Provider/FFN Application for Providers
(Both the Parent and Provider Applications must be turned in at the same time for processing)
- 3) Employer documentation/ job verification citing work hours
- 4) Completion of all required documentation by The Office of Child Care in order for applications to be processed and awards granted.

No new Block Grant Applications will be accepted for child care centers.

Parent can submit an application to the Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services for Child Care Subsidy Assistance by downloading and completing our Child Care Informal Provider Application from our Department of Human Services at www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/index.html.

The parent(s) of the child/ren can apply for subsidies for children ages zero – five (0 - 5) for the 8a.m. to 4p.m. shift, or parents working after hour shifts (4p.m. to 7a.m.) can apply for kids aged zero to twelve (0 – 12). The parent must list all information requested for the Family, Friend, or Neighbor (FFN) he or she has selected to care for the child/ren. *Income eligibility determined on a case by case basis.*

*To be approved as an Informal or FFN Provider, the **provider cannot live with the parents or children.** A clearance by the V.I. Police Department Criminal Records and V.I. Sex Offender Registry check will be conducted by The Office of Child Care & Regulatory Services.*

Block Grant (Child Care) applications are now available for parents and guardians on the Department of Human Services website Child Care and Regulatory Services page -

www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/index.html. The application can be downloaded, filled out and sent in at:

- St. Croix - Office of Child Care, #129 Golden Rock
- St. Thomas - Office of Child Care - Knud Hansen Building, 1303 Hospital Ground,
- St. John - DHS Office in Cruz Bay

Or, completed applications can be scanned and emailed to BlockGrant.Application@dhs.vi.gov.

Please Note: The Office of Child Care and Regulatory Service has updated contact information as the division is teleworking at this time. No in person meetings or interviews are being conducted at this time.

St. Thomas Office: 340-774-0930

Process Coordinator Extension: 4186

Office Assistant Extension: 4181

Licensing Director: 4184

St. Croix Office: 340-772-7100

Process Coordinator Extension: 7048

Child Care Specialist Extension: 7044

Child Care Specialist Extension: 7045

Licensing Specialist Extension: 7047

Office Assistant Extension: 7147

QRIS Director Extension: 7046

The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information.

If you are experiencing any of the coronavirus symptoms listed on the Department of Health website (listed below), self-quarantine and immediately contact the Department of Health:

- V.I. DOH website: <https://doh.vi.gov/>
- **COVID-19 Hotline:** (340) 712-6299 or (340) 776-1519

For more information on Covid19, the new strain of coronavirus, please visit covid19usvi.com or text COVID19USVI to 888777.

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