



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Childcare & Regulatory Services

Press Contact:

Ryan Nugent
Director of Communications
Phone: (340) 725-4924
ryan.nugent@dhs.vi.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2024

DHS Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services Announces Quality Improvement Mini Grants for Licensed Childcare Providers

(U.S. Virgin Islands)- The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services, (OCCRS) is pleased to announce the availability of applications for the **Quality Improvement Mini Grants** for all licensed childcare providers. These grants aim to enhance the overall quality of childcare services and facilities, providing an opportunity for providers to access funding for various important aspects of their operations. Child Care providers can apply for these grants to procure:

Outdoor Play Equipment, ensuring that children have access to safe and stimulating outdoor environments.

Supplemental Energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable and energy-efficient childcare setting.

Education & Training, another vital aspect, allowing providers to invest in professional development opportunities for their staff. This ensures that childcare providers stay abreast of the latest educational methodologies and best practices, ultimately benefiting the children under their care.

Health & Safety, enabling childcare providers to implement measures that enhance the overall well-being and security of the children in their programs.

Interested providers can access the grant applications through the VIDHS website, at <http://www.dhs.gov.vi/> on the **Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services** page.

Alternatively, hard copies of the applications are available at our Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services locations, at the Knud Hansen Complex on St. Thomas and #129 Golden Rock on St. Croix. Should you have any questions or require assistance in the application process, feel free to reach out to the Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services for guidance and support at (340)772-7147 on St. Croix or (340)774-0930 ext. 4180 or 4184 St. Thomas/St. John.

The Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services (OCCRS) licenses and certifies all child care providers in the territory and provides support for quality improvement in all sectors, public and parochial. The office assists low-income working families or families entering the workforce by providing access to affordable, high-quality early care and after- school programs in the Virgin Islands via child care subsidies.

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 or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs>).

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

###END###