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For Immediate Release: December 5, 2024

MEDIA ADVISORY: DHS TO HOST PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2025 SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS - The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) announces a Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) via a virtual Zoom Meeting to present the **FY 2025 Intended Use Plan for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**.

The **SSBG** is a flexible source of federal funding that allows states and territories to design social service programming tailored to their population's unique needs. This funding supports a variety of programs essential to improving the well-being of individuals and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For FY 2025, VIDHS has strategically aligned its SSBG-funded programs with key goals, including:

- I. **Achieving or maintaining economic self-support:** Programs such as Employment Services and Independent and Transitional Living Services provide job training, skills development, and support for individuals transitioning to independent living.
- II. **Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency:** Services like Information and Referral and Day Care for Children connect families with essential resources and assistance to reduce dependency.
- III. **Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation:** Protective Services for Adults and Children, along with Foster Care programs, ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals by addressing maltreatment and providing safe environments.
- IV. **Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care:** Home-Based Services and Home-Delivered Meals enable individuals to maintain independence and avoid institutionalization by providing in-home support.
- V. **Securing referrals or admission to institutional care when necessary:** Case Management and support services ensure that those requiring higher levels of care receive it in appropriate settings.

Commissioner Averil George invites members of the public to join the Zoom Virtual Meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

To review the FY 2025 SSBG Intended Use Plan please visit :

<https://dhs.vi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SSBG-Intended-Use-Plan-FY25.pdf>

To Join the meeting please use the following information below:

PUBLIC MEETING: VIDHS SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT INTENDED USE PLAN 2025

Time: Dec 19, 2024, 05:30 PM ET

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89032493256?pwd=0GVQKTldsajbZbPQmT0uox6yfqyBc.1>

Meeting ID: 890 3249 3256

Passcode: 352267

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- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 890 3249 3256

Passcode: 352267

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcm1NGQjql>

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.

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