



#2 John Brewer's Bay, St. Thomas, VI 00802



vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil.org



340-693-1003



April 15, 2024

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT **SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**


Dear Fellow Farmers, Fishers, and Stakeholders,

We are pleased and excited to share some great news! The Local Food and Farm Council is thrilled to announce the availability of funds through our Public-Private Partnership Investment Fund Program. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, this initiative represents a significant step forward in addressing the diverse challenges our farming and fishing sectors regularly encounter.

With the visionary support of Governor Albert Bryan, Jr., in approving the funding allocations for Bill No. 35-0003 (Act No. 8700) to fund the mandates and additional recommendations of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan, significant strides have significantly advanced the mission of the Council. Through this legislation, \$500,000.00 has been earmarked from the General Funds to bolster available funding, establishing two vital components of the Plan: the Public-Private Partnership Investment Fund and the Farmer's Grant Matching Fund. Moreover, the Council's adoption of the Plan has extended access to these funds to individuals in the fishing sector, broadening the scope of support to include agriculture and fisheries initiatives.

Our objective is to empower and equip farmers and fishers with the essential resources to thrive and succeed in their respective industries. Through strategic investments and collaborative partnerships, we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting food sustainability and security, enhancing productivity, and fortifying the resilience of agriculture and fisheries in our territory for generations to come.

We invite you to seize this opportunity for support and advancement by submitting the enclosed Application for Funding Assistance. Whether you are embarking on establishing your farming or fishing enterprise, a seasoned professional seeking to expand operations, or



a farming or fishing organization, we enthusiastically welcome applications from all stakeholders within the agricultural and fishing communities.

Overview of Funding Details:

- **Tier 1 Funding:** Suitable for beginning farmers or fishers with 0-5 years of business experience.
- **Tier 2 Funding:** Designed for experienced farmers or fishers with five or more years of business experience.
- **Application Deadline:** May 31, 2024, 11:59 P.M. AST

Application Details:

Accessing the application for the PPP Fund Program is convenient through the multiple channels:

1. Available Online:
 - www.vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil.org
 - www.myviabc.org
2. Visit any Agriculture Business Center locations.
3. Email request:
 - Send your request to: vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov

The Request for Application Forms I & II (RFP) below contains the full application details and Public-Private Investment Fund Program eligibility.


Thank you for your participation in our funding partnership initiative. We eagerly anticipate receiving your application and working collaboratively with you to enhance further the development of agriculture and fisheries in the Virgin Islands.

Dr. David Hall

Dr. David Hall
Co-Chairperson,
Local Food and Farm Council

Dr. Louis Petersen

Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr.
Co-Chairperson,
Local Food and Farm Council



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS I
Public-Private Partnership Investment Fund Program

FUNDING DETAILS:			
Funding Year:	Fiscal Year 2024		
Grantor:	The Local Food and Farm Council		
Source Of Funds:	VI Economic Development Authority		
Program Available Funding:	\$500,000.00		
Status:	Open		
Application Deadline:	May 31, 2024 (11:59 P.M. Atlantic Standard Time)		
Letter Of Intent Deadline:	Not Applicable		
AWARD RANGE			
Tier 1 Funding:	Suitable for beginning farmers or fishers with 0-5 years of business experience. Ranges: \$25,000.00 - \$100,000.00		
Tier 2 Funding:	Designed for experienced farmers or fishers with five or more years of business experience. Ranges: \$40,000.00 - \$100,000.00		
ELIGIBILITY SECTOR CATEGORY			
Farmers	Fishers	Farmer Organizations	Cooperatives
PROGRAM DETAILS			
Geographical Jurisdiction:	United States Virgin Islands		
Funding Opportunity Number:	PPPIF – 0001		
Submission Email:	vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov		

Please refer to the official Request for Application II (RFA) document for detailed eligibility requirements.



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS II
Public-Private Partnership Investment Fund Program

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Criteria:

1. **Age Requirement:** Must be 18 years or older.

2. **Residency:** Applicants must be legal residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3. **Legal Status:** Applicants must represent legally registered businesses or organizations operating within the U.S. Virgin Islands.

4. **Engagement in the Agriculture or Fishing Industry:** Applicants must demonstrate active involvement in the agricultural or fishing industry within the territory. This involvement should align with the objectives of promoting sustainability, enhancing food security, and fostering economic development.

Eligible Categories:

1. **Individual Farmers and/or Fishers:** Individuals or entities intricately engaged in agricultural or fishing activities, including crop cultivation, livestock rearing, aquaculture, or commercial fishing operations.

2. **Cooperatives:** A cooperative, known as a co-op, is an association of members within a similar profession or industry collaborating to process, prepare, and handle products and supplies. They operate for the mutual benefit of their members, providing access to combined resources, services, and earnings. Agricultural or fisheries cooperatives must:
 - Be duly registered and officially recognized as a United States Virgin Islands cooperative entity.
 - Comply with all relevant IRS regulations governing cooperative associations.
 - Provide clear documentation of the cooperative's structure.



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3. **Farmer Organizations:** Farmer Organizations are associations of non-profit or for-profit farming and fishing entities that unite to support or promote local agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and agricultural education initiatives. Unlike cooperatives, Farmer Organizations operate without IRS regulations and focus on community development through agricultural best practices. Applicants must:
- Demonstrate a steadfast commitment to supporting local agriculture, promoting sustainable farming methods, engaging in educational outreach, and collaborating with stakeholders to address agriculture and food security challenges.

For inquiries or to apply, please email vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov.

