



The U.S. Virgin Islands' Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 Project

Presented by Noreen Michael, PhD
on behalf of the Research Team*

at the
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Disclaimer: The information and views shared in this presentation are those of the research team and do not necessarily represent the views of the Administration for Children and Families or the government of the US Virgin Islands.

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Overview of Presentation:

PDG B-5 Project

- Purposes and required activities
- How the USVI PDG B-5 Project is organized
- Collaboration as a Central Element of the Project
- Approach to the Needs Assessment
- Preliminary Findings
- Next Steps



The USVI PDG B-5 Project

Road to Success:

**Developing an early child care and education
mixed delivery system for the B-5 population in
the USVI**



The Five Purposes of the PDG B-5

Develop, update, or implement a strategic plan that facilitates collaboration and coordination among existing programs

Encourage partnerships among the wide range of ECE programs and service partners

More efficiently use existing Federal, State, local, and non-governmental resources

Expand parental choice and knowledge about existing programs

Enhance school readiness for children from low-income and disadvantaged families



The Five Required Activities of the PDG B-5

Conduct/update a thorough **B-5** statewide needs assessment of the availability and quality of existing programs/services.

Develop or update a strategic plan, based on needs assessment results.

Maximize parental choice and knowledge; promote and increase involvement by parents and family members.

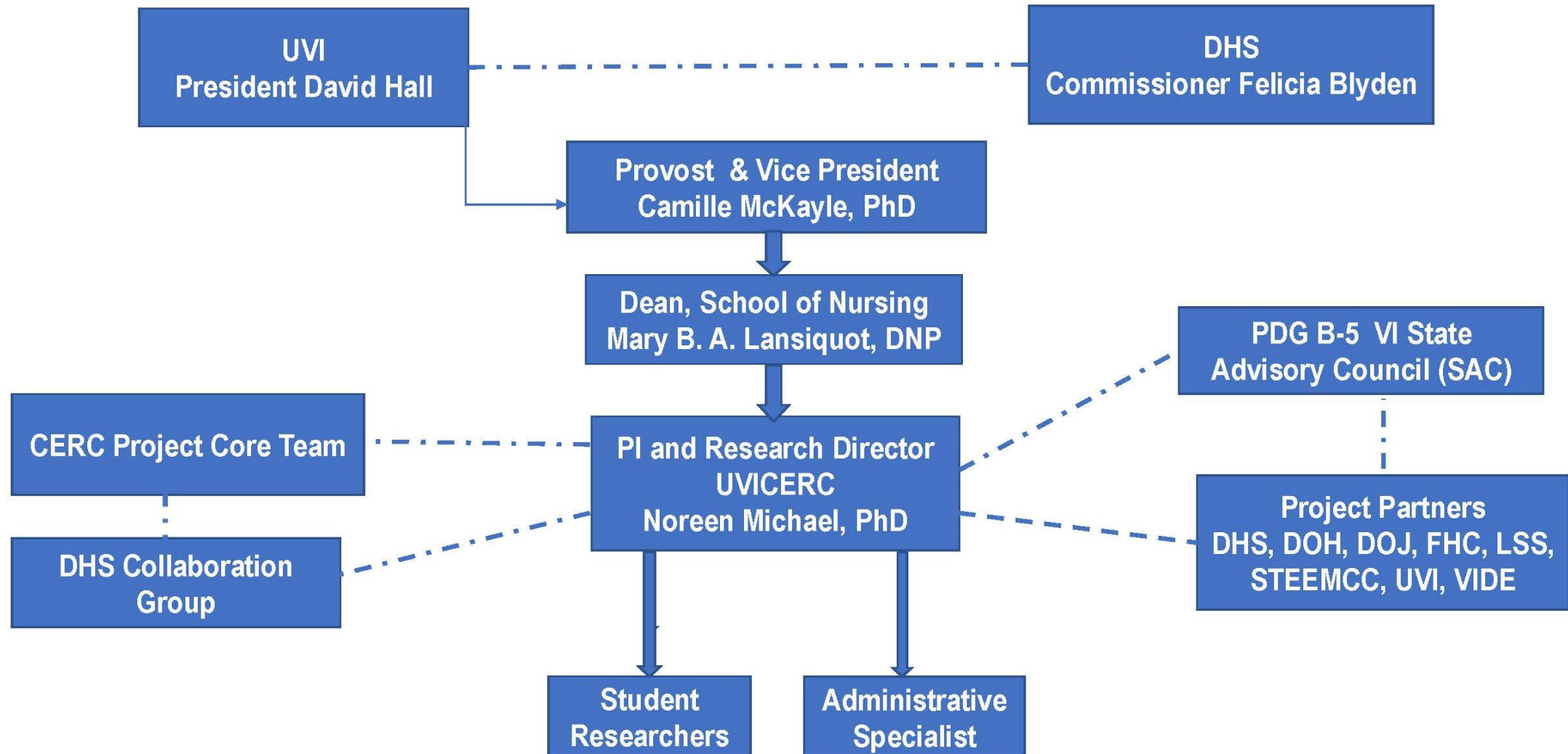
Share best practices among early childhood care and education program providers.

Improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in the Territory.



Organization of the USVI PDG B-5

USVI PDG B-5 Project Organizational Chart





Approach to the Needs Assessment

❖ Collection of Secondary Data

- ✓ Establishment of Workgroups
- ✓ Identification, retrieval, and analysis of secondary and administrative data

❖ Collection of Primary Data

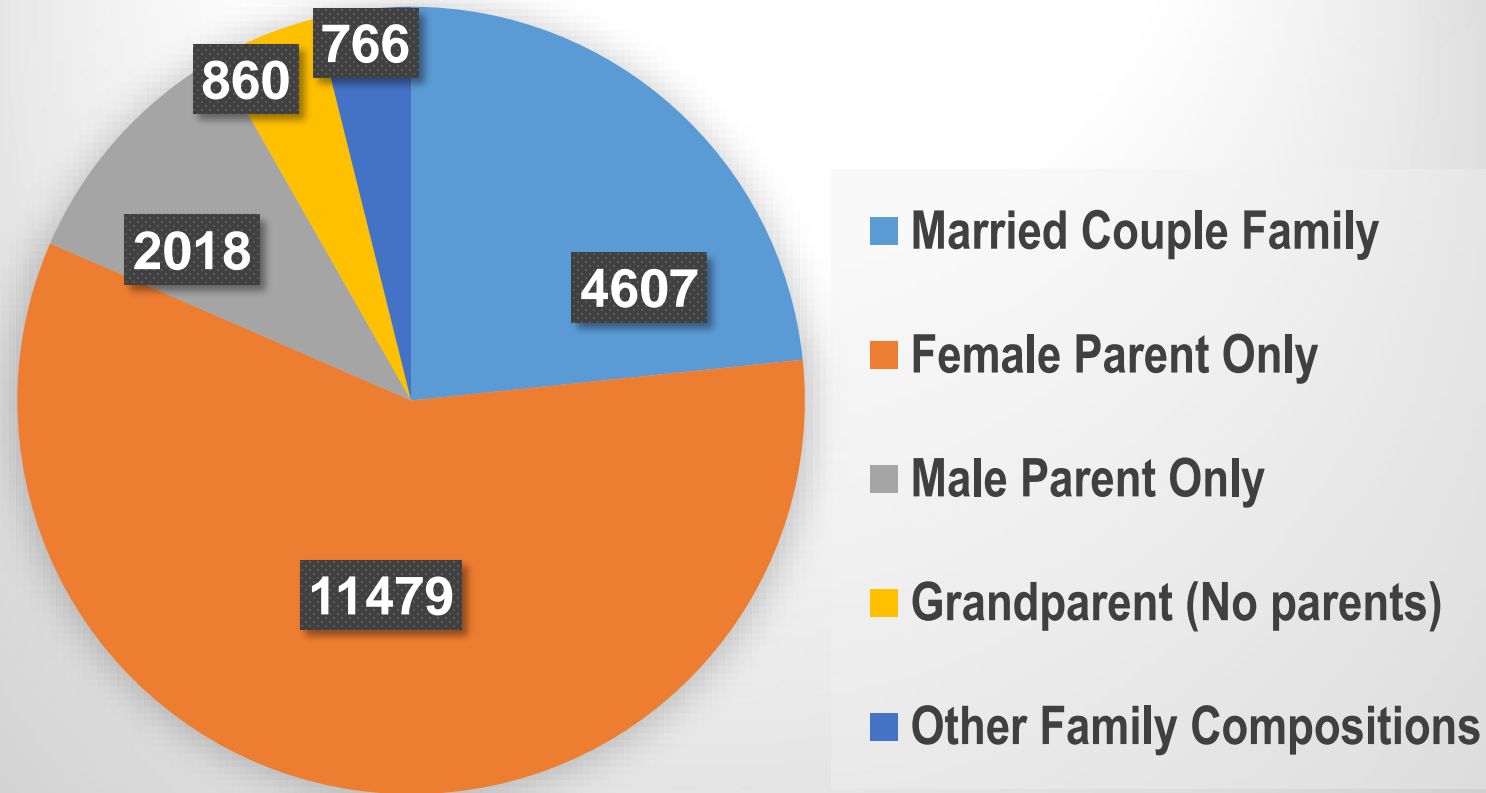
- ✓ IRB Application – Under review
- ✓ Projected timeframe for primary data collection– April and May

Integration of Primary and Secondary Data



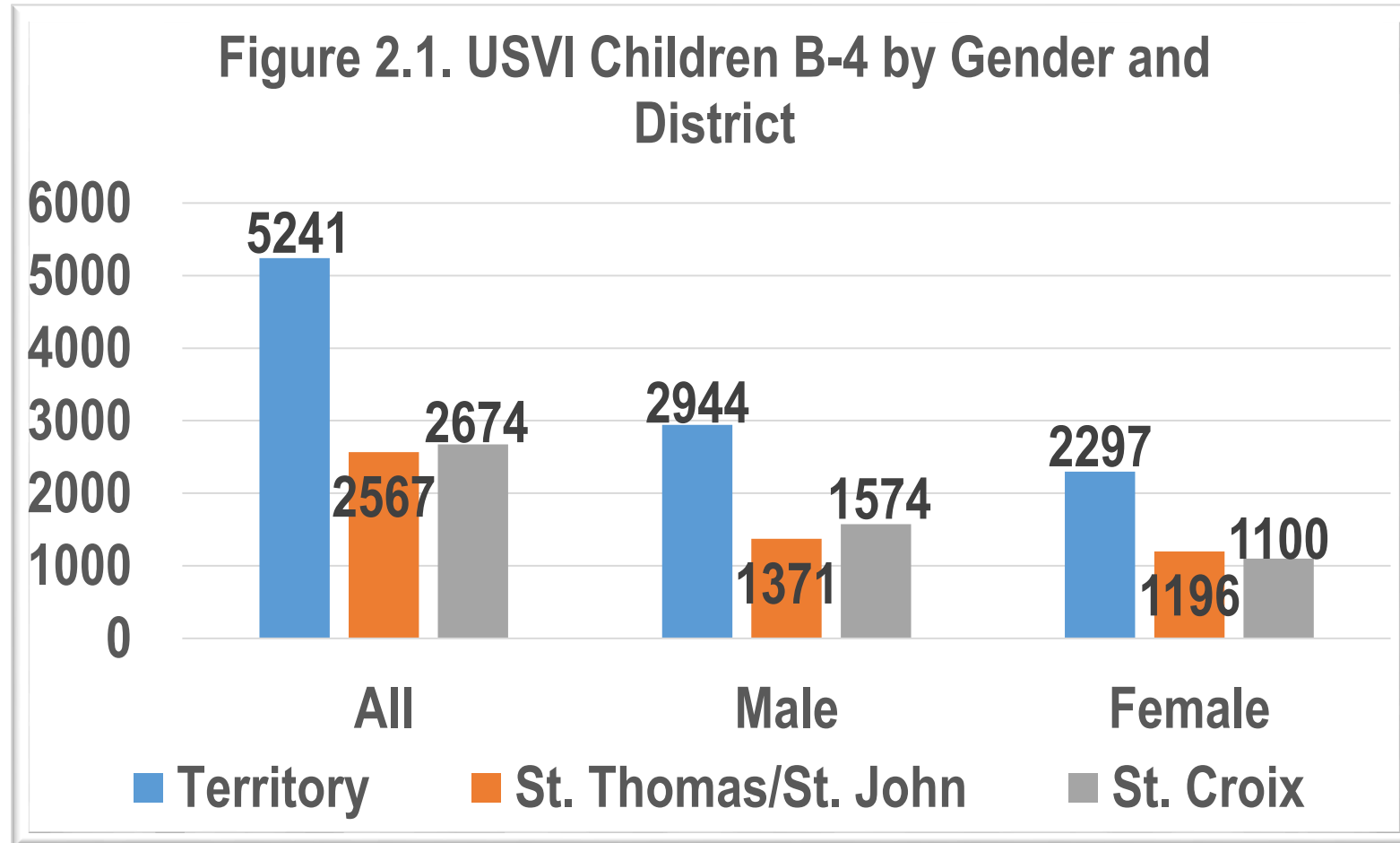
Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

Figure 1. USVI Family Composition, 2015



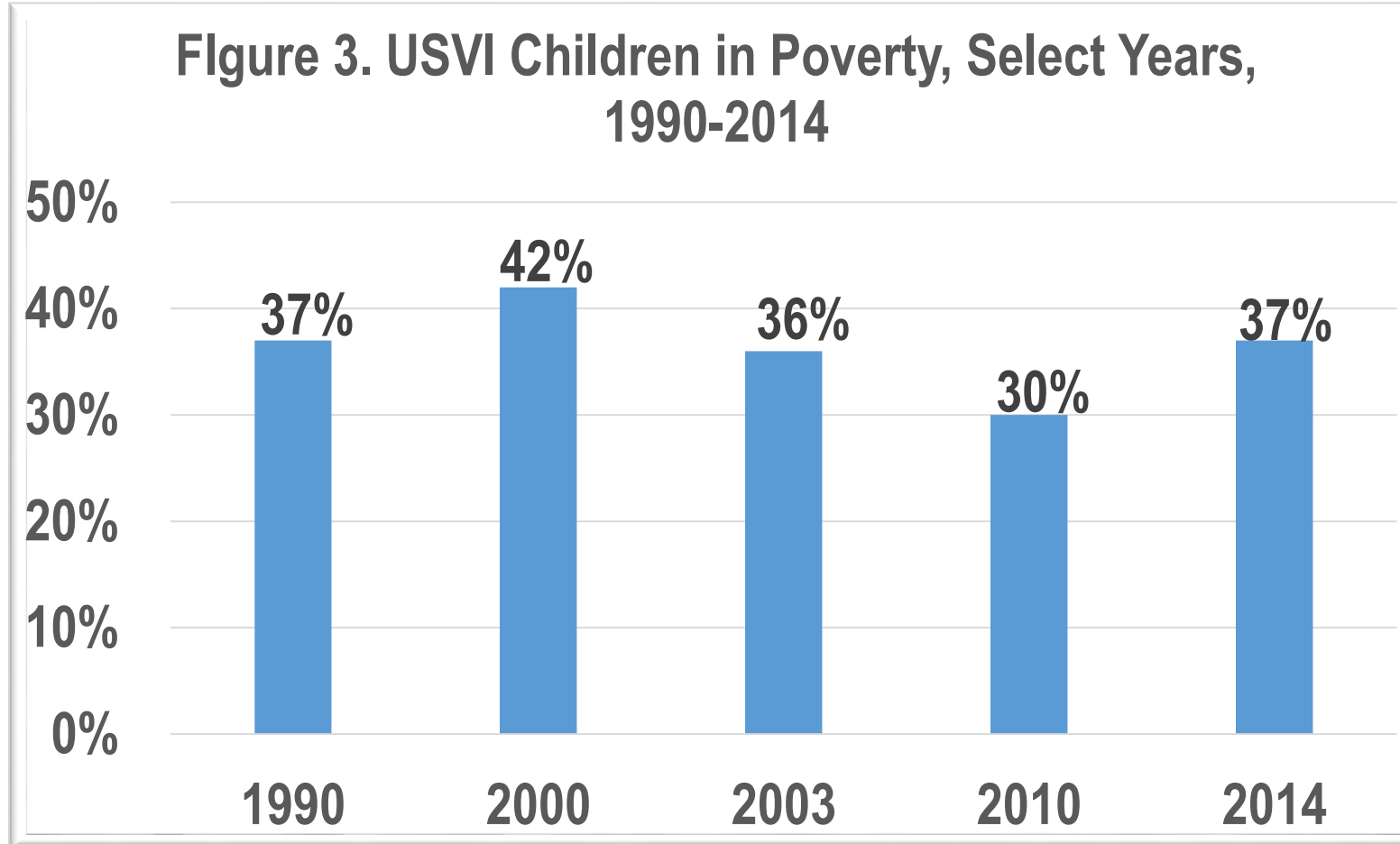


Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment





Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment





Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

- ❖ **USVI children and families living in poverty - 2015**
 - ✓ Overall, **20%** of families in the USVI are living in poverty.
 - ✓ Of all families living in poverty, while **25.6%** have children under the age of 6, **54%** have children under the age of 18.
 - ✓ Of families living in poverty, **49.9%** are headed by single females.
 - ✓ Of families in poverty headed by single females, **44%** have children under the age of 6.



Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

❖ Enrollments in select social services programs

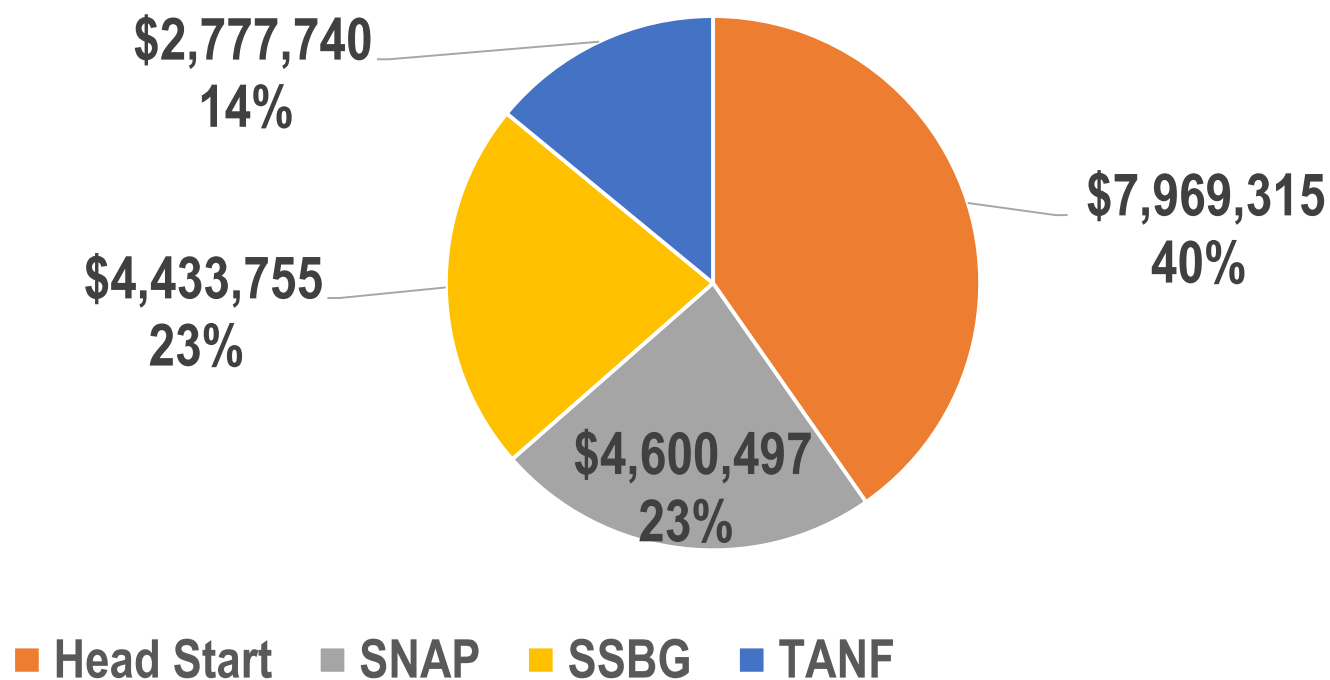
Program	Enrollment	Period
SNAP	28,933	As of September 2018
WIC	2,836	FY2017-2018
Head Start	894	SY2017-2018
Early Head Start	144	SY2017-2018
MAP	25,918	As of May 2018
TANF	764	FY2016-2017



Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment



Figure 4. Funding for Select Social Services,
FY2017





Potential Challenges USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

- ❖ Hurricane Recovery - context
- ❖ Change of Administration
- ❖ Current state of data infrastructure
- ❖ State Entity-related
- ❖ Human resource issues across programs and agencies



Next Steps for the USVI PDG B-5

- ❖ Complete data collection and analysis -- primary and secondary
- ❖ Present highlights at second quarter SAC meeting and get input from SAC members
- ❖ Use input from SAC members to complete full draft of needs assessment document
- ❖ Disseminate to SAC members for final review/feedback
- ❖ Core Team to finalize needs assessment by June 29, 2019



References

1. Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (2019). *Our Children in Focus: U.S. Virgin Islands Kids Count Data Book*, 2016. St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
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4. Michael, N., Valmond, J. M., Ragster, L. E., Brown, D. E. & Callwood, G. B. (2019). *Community needs assessment: Understanding the needs of vulnerable children and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands Post Hurricanes Irma and Maria*. St. Thomas, USVI: Caribbean Exploratory Research Center, School of Nursing, University of the Virgin Islands.



Questions/Discussion



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Thank You!

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