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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Support: Memorandum of Agreement between the UVI [CERC] and the Government of the Virgin Islands [VIDHS] funded by Grant No. 90TP0083, DHHS ACF
*Research Team*

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**Role**

- Research Associate
- Research Associate
- Senior Research Associate
- Co-Investigator
- Principal Investigator

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

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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

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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.

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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.

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.

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

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

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Organization of the USVI PDG B-5

USVI PDG B-5 Project Organizational Chart

- UVI President David Hall
  - Provost & Vice President Camille McKayle, PhD
    - Dean, School of Nursing Mary B. A. Lansiquot, DNP
      - PI and Research Director UVICERC Noreen Michael, PhD
        - CERC Project Core Team
        - DHS Collaboration Group
        - Student Researchers
        - Administrative Specialist
        - Project Partners DHS, DOH, DOJ, FHC, LSS, STEEMCC, UVI, VIDE
  - DHS Commissioner Felicia Blyden
    - PDG B-5 VI State Advisory Council (SAC)
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

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Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

Figure 1. USVI Family Composition, 2015

- Married Couple Family: 4607
- Female Parent Only: 11479
- Male Parent Only: 2018
- Grandparent (No parents): 766
- Other Family Compositions: 860

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Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

Figure 2.1. USVI Children B-4 by Gender and District

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Preliminary Findings USVI PDG B-5 – Needs Assessment

Figure 3. USVI Children in Poverty, Select Years, 1990-2014

1990: 37%
2000: 42%
2003: 36%
2010: 30%
2014: 37%

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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.

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Enrollments in select social services programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>28,933</td>
<td>As of September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC</td>
<td>2,836</td>
<td>FY2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>SY2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>SY2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP</td>
<td>25,918</td>
<td>As of May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>FY2016-2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Figure 4. Funding for Select Social Services, FY2017

- Head Start: $2,777,740 (14%)
- SNAP: $4,433,755 (23%)
- SSBG: $4,600,497 (23%)
- TANF: $7,969,315 (40%)

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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

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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

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References


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Questions/Discussion

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Thank You!

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