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Department of Human Services Opens Applications for \$1 Million in Crisis Intervention Grants

Community Center / **Published On September 09, 2023 05:33 AM /**

Staff Consortium **September 09, 2023**

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/The V.I. Department of Human Services is inviting eligible non-profit and non-governmental organizations to apply for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Crisis Intervention Fund Grants. The application period for the grant, which offers an estimated award amount of \$100,000 for up to 10 recipients, is open and will run until Friday, September 29, 2023, 5:00 pm AST.

Established by the VI Legislature on October 13, 1994, the Crisis Intervention Fund was created to offer supplementary financial support to organizations focusing on the welfare of families and youth in the territory. Funds are designed to augment other existing financial resources for the delivery of vital services, including family and parenting education, youth skill-building programs, prevention education, and crisis intervention.

The grant aims to provide a range of intervention and support services for families and youths aged 17 years and younger. Specific areas that the grant aims to cover include:

- Family Enhancement programs for individuals from birth to 17 years old.
- Parenting and family education.
- Youth-focused initiatives, such as life skill-building, educational assistance, mentoring, and job skills development.
- Substance use prevention and violence prevention targeted at youth.
- Services for disabled youth or families with disabled youth.
- Short-term individual and group support services, along with comprehensive service coordination for families or households in crisis.

Kimberley Causey-Gomez, outgoing DHS commissioner, emphasized the agency's enthusiasm for offering these grants to the community. "We look forward to providing these funding opportunities, that support local organizations committed to being a bridge to stability and a safety net in times of crisis, to our community," she said. "The availability of additional services to the community is a win-win outcome for us all. We encourage eligible entities to apply."

Organizations interested in applying for the FY 2024 Crisis Intervention Grant can obtain an application by emailing kendall.tutein@dhs.vi.gov with the subject titled: REQUEST FOR FY2024 Crisis Intervention Application. Applications can also be picked up at the VIDHS office on St. Thomas at the Knud Hansen Complex at Hospital Ground or at 3012 Golden Rock on St. Croix. For more information, potential applicants may call (340) 718-2980 (St. Croix) or (340) 774-0930 (St. Thomas).

The award period for these grants will commence on October 1, 2023, and conclude on September 30, 2024. Current FY2023 Crisis Intervention subgrantees must reapply for FY2024 program funding.

For more information about the Department of Human Services and its various programs, visit the Department's website at www.dhs.gov.vi.