

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DHS Announces Head Start Program Relocation Amid Anna's Hope Headquarters Demolition

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Staff Consortium **September 14, 2023**



The V.I. Department of Human Services Head Start program has announced that due to the ongoing demolition and reconstruction of its Anna's Hope administrative headquarters, the program's staff and operations are in the process of being relocated. As a result, all activities at the Anna's Hope offices have ceased.

Despite the change in location, the program continues to recruit and register new students. Families interested in in-person registration are directed to visit the Frederiksted Head Start Center. This center is conveniently located at Mars Hill Frederiksted, situated behind the Claude O. Markoe Elementary School. Support services for families enrolled in the Head Start program will continue to be available.

These services will be provided by Head Start staff who are co-located at various Head Start locations across the island.

For inquiries or further information, the public can reach out through multiple contact numbers: (340)772-1981, (340)642-6282, or (340)774-0930 ext. 4200.

Eligibility Criteria for the Head Start Program

To qualify for the program, children must be at least three years old by December 31st of the application year. Additional requirements include the presentation of the child's birth certificate and proof of household income for federal eligibility determination. Guardians are required to produce legal documentation, such as a court order, to prove guardianship. Parents of children with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply, irrespective of income levels.

Online Application Process

Applications can also be made online using the COPA Parent Portal. Interested parties can visit <https://vihs.mycopa.com/familyPortal/childCare.epl>, create an online account, and follow the on-screen prompts to complete the application.

For more information, the public is advised to visit the Department of Human Services' official website at www.dhs.gov.vi.