

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Funding of Up to \$20,000 for Smallholder USVI Farmers and Fishers Announced

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World Central Kitchen (WCK), a nonprofit organization, has announced the launch of its ?Plow to Plate program in the U.S. Virgin Islands, which provides small and medium-sized agribusinesses the opportunity to submit an application to obtain a grant of up to \$20,000 to grow their projects.

In addition to funding, applicants can also obtain business and technical training, exposure to WCK's network of restaurants, hotels, suppliers and distributors, and access to human capital through community service, according to the release. Voluntourism applications are available to smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, commercial fishers and fisheries, as well as food-related small businesses that produce or distribute food at

a local level.

The Plow to Plate program aims to strengthen the resilience of food systems across the Caribbean and to decrease the region's long-standing dependence on food imports, WCK said. The nonprofit said it began the program in Puerto Rico in 2018 and after great success there, is expanding to the USVI.

Plow to Plate has supported over 80 projects to date in the food economy, with more than 1.3 million dollars in grant funds, in addition to providing over 1,130 hours of training and connecting 890 volunteers with participating farms, according to the release.

The application launched Wednesday, April 1st and will be open until April 30 at 11:59 p.m. Those interested in applying can access the application [here](#).

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