

The Virgin Islands Consortium

FEMA Provides Over \$41 Million In Expedited Funding To VI Government For Debris Cleanup, Power Restoration And Other Areas Following Storms

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ST. CROIX -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided more than \$41 million in expedited funding to support efforts by the Virgin Islands government to clean up storm-related debris, restore power, and protect residents during and after hurricanes Irma and Maria, FEMA announced Wednesday.

The assistance comes through FEMA's Public Assistance program, which is authorized to pay 100 percent of the costs for emergency work across the territory for six months following the September 7 disaster declaration for Hurricane Irma and the September 20

declaration for Hurricane Maria.

To date, 100 percent FEMA funding has been obligated for emergency projects under the two disaster declarations, including:

- More than \$24 million to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to support power restoration efforts in St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas, including Water Island;
- \$11.2 million to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works to support large-scale debris removal operations;
- \$2.5 million to the Virgin Islands National Guard for protective measures to keep residents safe during the storms, and;
- \$3.5 million to the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to help cover costs to provide non-congregate sheltering for survivors.

“These initial Public Assistance grants reflect our commitment to the recovery effort across the Virgin Islands,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer William Vogel. “We strongly support the territorial government’s priorities of caring for survivors, getting lights turned on throughout the islands and clearing roadways of debris for everyone’s health and safety.”