

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Deadline Approaching To Apply For Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Community Center / **Published On December 22, 2017 11:19 PM /**

Staff **December 22, 2017**



Survivors of hurricanes Irma and Maria who lost their jobs as a result of the storms have until Dec. 29 to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Friday.

The DUA program provides unemployment benefits and re-employment services to individuals to assist them in their recovery. The program is designed to help survivors who are unemployed as a result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance. Individuals such as farmers, fishers, independent contractors and small-business owners, may qualify for disaster unemployment assistance.

Survivors who are out of work for at least one week as a direct result of the hurricanes are eligible to apply. Benefits may be extended for up to 26 weeks – as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be disaster-related.

The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Labor is assisting DUA applicants at the following locations:

- **St. Croix:** USVI Department of Labor, 4401 Sion Farm, Christiansted; Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **St. John:** USVI Legislature, St. John Annex, 1D Cruz Bay; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **St. Thomas:** USVI Department of Labor at 2353 Kronprindsens Gade; Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply for DUA, individuals must provide proof of identity and citizenship (U.S. citizen, U.S. national or qualified alien). Survivors are also required to provide verification of employment or self-employment or provide verification about work that was to begin on or after the storms.

Other requirements for eligibility include:

- Be unemployed as a direct result of the disaster
- Be able and available for work, unless injured as a direct result of the disaster
- Have not refused an offer of employment in a suitable position
- File before the applicable deadline
- Not be eligible for regular unemployment insurance

For more information and to view other services offered by the USVI Department of Labor, visit www.vidol.gov.