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VIPA Receives \$3.8 Million in Federal Grants Through Covid Relief Package

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VI Port Authority logo. By. VI CONSORTIUM

The V.I. Port Authority announced Monday that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$3,826,687 in federal grants to the authority via the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA).

VIPA received a \$3,699,990 reimbursement grant for costs related to sanitizing the Cyril E. King Airport and Henry E. Rohlsen Airport terminals to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, said the authority. The funds can be used to pay for operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, and any debt service payments.

VIPA also received \$126,697 to provide relief from rent and minimum annual guarantees to on-airport car rental, on-airport parking, and in-terminal concessions. According to the release, rental car and airport concession sales dropped drastically at both airports at the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 when travel slowed down due to Stay-at-Home orders issued around the world.

Port Authority Executive Director, Carlton Dowe, said VIPA is grateful for the relief funding for unforeseen expenses and revenue shortages caused by the coronavirus pandemic. “We are especially grateful that our federal partners have granted these funds to assist us with keeping our facilities safe. Keeping our employees, tenants, and travelers healthy is of paramount importance,” he said.

The CRRSAA was signed into law by the President on December 27, 2020 and includes nearly \$2 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports and eligible concessions at those airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. To distribute these funds, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP).

The FAA will make grants available to all airports that are part of the national airport system, including all commercial service airports, all reliever airports, and some public-owned general aviation airports.