

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Dept. of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue Release Nearly \$25 Million in \$1,400 Stimulus Checks to 10,000 Residents

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Governor Albert Bryan said Thursday that the V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue and the V.I. Department of Finance have mailed out nearly \$25 million in \$1,400 stimulus checks to 10,000 residents.

According to Gov't House, this week's distribution of \$24.9 million in federal funds from President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan is the first of a number of 10,000-check batches of Stimulus funds that are being sent out.

Finance and BIR sent out the \$600 checks from the federal "CARES Act II" to 41,524 – or 92 percent – of the approximately 45,000 Virgin Islanders who filed their 2019 tax return, according to the release.

"The vast majority of the remaining individuals either did not qualify because their income is too high, or they have an issue with their 2019 tax filing," said the governor during the administration's Covid-19 press briefing Monday.

Persons who did not receive a \$600 stimulus payment and believe they meet the qualifications for eligibility, should contact B.I.R. at the bureau's hotline number: 340-714-9325.

"I know that many in the public have expressed frustration with getting in contact with someone on the hotline. As you can imagine, there is an overwhelming volume of calls received daily," Mr. Bryan said during Monday's press briefing. "So, I encourage you to visit the Bureau at their offices on St. Croix in Sunny Isle and on St. Thomas in Red Hook."