

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Winners of Ninth Vax-to-Win Lottery Drawing Announced; Child Tax Credit Payments Going Out; Rental Assistance Funds Available

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Tashana Benjamin from St. Croix, left, and Ingrid Iwuc from the St. Thomas-St. John District.

The winners of the ninth Vax-to-Win Lottery drawing were announced Monday during the Bryan administration's Covid-19 press briefing.

A V.I. Lottery representative announced the winner in the St. Croix District as Tashana Benjamin, who won \$100,000. In the St. Thomas-St. John District, Ingrid Iwuc was announced as the winner of the \$100,000 prize.

Child Tax Credit

Virgin Islands families who qualify for the Child Tax Credit have begun receiving those payments this past week through the hard work of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Department of Finance, according to Gov't House.

The administration said it has received a number of inquiries regarding how to distinguish between the Child Tax Credits and the income tax refund checks. The Child Tax Credits from the BIR are coded on the check stub with the language "20191ADVCTC2021," which is how you can tell the difference between income tax refund payments and Child Tax Credit payments.

Qualified families can expect to receive 5 monthly payments of \$300 through December 2021, and the balance of the child tax credit on their 2021 income taxes, according to Gov't House. The second round of monthly payments will be issued by the BIR and the Department of Finance this week.

ERAP Program

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority has begun issuing benefit payments to the 517 families and individuals eligible to receive benefits under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, said Gov't House. Governor Bryan is encouraging eligible Virgin Islanders to take advantage of this program while there is still time. The funds provided by the program can be used not only for rent but for utility bills as well.

As of Tuesday the territory had 160 active Covid-19 cases, 98 on St. Croix, 59 on St. Thomas, and 3 on St. John, according to the V.I. Dept. of Health.