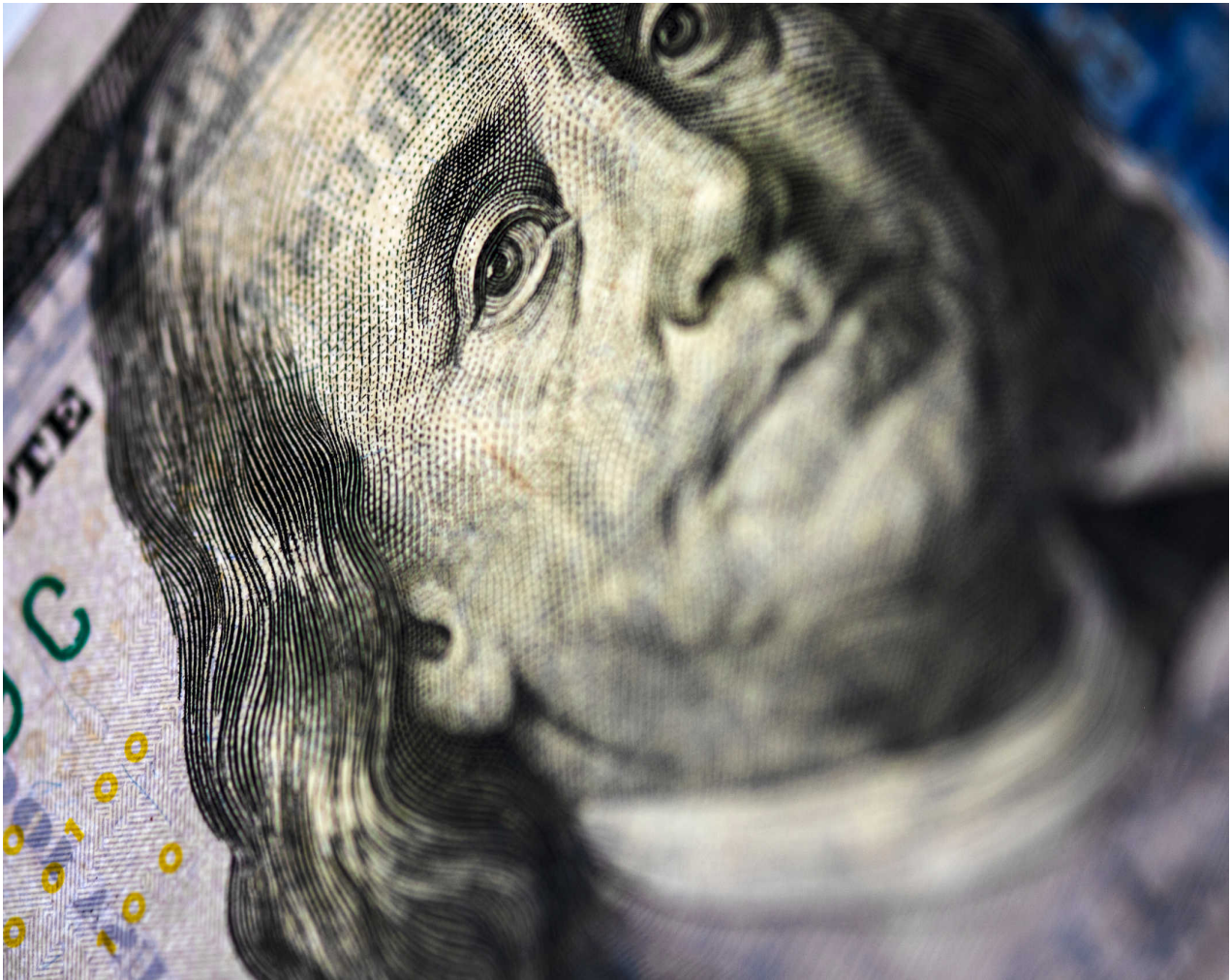


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Pandemic Emergency Funding Assistance Now Available to Needy Families in Territory

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Elesha George **July 11, 2022**



Low-income families with children who currently receive assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are being told that Pandemic Emergency Assistance (P-EBT) is now available to them between July and September this year.

During the Government House press briefing and Covid-19 update on Monday, Communications Director Richard Motta announced that assistance will be made available through the Department of Human Services.

The fund will cover Virgin Islands family households with a combined maximum income of \$50,000 and a minor younger than 18 years old. Families must apply to receive these funds.

“Benefit levels will be determined by Territorial Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund’s Review Committee on a weekly basis. Benefits will be dispersed via paper checks and will be issued in person to the applicant after identification and signature verification,” Mr. Motta explained.

The funding for the Pandemic Emergency Assistance is authorized under the America Rescue Plan which provides funding to states and territories to assist needy families impacted by Covid-19. DHS Commissioner Kimberly Causey-Gomez told the Consortium that 100 households in the territory are currently on the program, which is administered through D.H.S.’s Division of Family Assistance.

Individuals with questions are asked to contact the Territorial PEAFF2 Hotline at (340) 772-7120.