



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Office of the Commissioner

June 21, 2022

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol  
Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library  
4607 Tutu Park Mall St. Thomas, VI 00802

**RE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services Request for Federal Consistency for the Demolition and Reconstruction of the Head Start Concordia Program Facility, St. Croix Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Feb. 9, 2018)**

Dear Commissioner Oriol,

The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (VIDHS) respectfully requests approval of a Federal Consistency for the Head Start's Reconstruction Project for their Concordia Head Start Center on St. Croix. VIDHS is proposing the complete demolition/removal of buildings and support structures in preparation for the construction of a new facility. The project is located at No. 180 Concordia, St. Croix. The existing buildings and support structures suffered major damage during Hurricane Maria in September 2017 and will be demolished/removed and replaced through funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Feb. 9, 2018).

The existing buildings were originally constructed prior major hurricane damage in the late 80's from Hurricane Hugo to more recently, Hurricane Maria in 2017. Since the time of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Virgin Islands has adopted, first the Uniform Building Code for structures, and more recently, the International Building Code. Besides the existing poor condition of the buildings on site caused by damages from past hurricanes, their old construction cannot meet the structural requirements of the 2018 International Building Code. Furthermore, the existing structures cannot accommodate the program requirements for a functional facility.

This request for Federal Consistency is for the demolition and construction of a new facility. The demolition of the subject building will remove the existing one-story wood structure that was damaged by Hurricane Maria. The proposed demolition project will impact only previously disturbed areas associated with the removal of the existing buildings and pads including the existing foundations and infrastructure systems. The proposed project is the initial step in expanding the services provided by department's Head Start Program on the island of St. Croix. The proposed project will begin as soon as all approvals have been finalized and a construction schedule will be furnished once a contractor is selected

Attached, please find a Project Summary demonstrating the project's compliance with the U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program and drawings of the proposed demolition and construction project. Please contact Deputy Commissioner, Miguel Tricoche, at 340-474-2489, or [Miguel.Tricoche@dhs.vi.gov](mailto:Miguel.Tricoche@dhs.vi.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Causey-Gomez, MSW  
Commissioner

Approved  Not Approved

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Sign

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Anita E. Nibbs, DPNR - Environmental Planner III