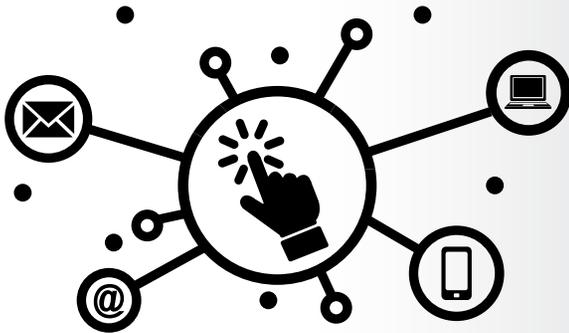


applications for appeal may be mailed or delivered to the Ministry of Health and Social Development's office, or emailed to [ministryofhealth@gov.vg](mailto:ministryofhealth@gov.vg) The Ministry can be reached by telephone: 468-2272

**For more information or to provide feedback on the Public Assistance Programme**

Call the Social Development Department in Tortola at 468-3650, 468-3636 or 468-9371 and in Virgin Gorda and Anegada at 468-9372.



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
**VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
Ministry of Health  
and Social Development

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
APPLICATION PROCESS**



## NEW APPLICANTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why is there a Public Assistance Programme?

The Public Assistance Programme provides financial support and services to individuals and households in need, in order to enable them to achieve at least a minimum degree of economic security.

### What is the objective of the Public Assistance Programme?

The objective of the programme is to provide support to persons who are unable to earn sufficient income, and do not have the means to meet their basic needs – on a short-, medium- or long-term basis.

### Who can apply?

Applicants must meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria:

- Belonger, or [permanent] Resident; **or**
- Married to a Belonger and living together with that person in the Virgin Islands; **or**

- Is responsible for the care of a dependent person who is a Belonger or resident.

Priority will be given to vulnerable children, persons over 65, unemployed persons, and persons with disabilities.

### How can persons apply?

By completing the application form, which can be found online at:  
[https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/forms/public\\_assistance\\_form\\_-\\_june\\_2022.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/forms/public_assistance_form_-_june_2022.pdf)

Forms can also be collected from the Social Development Department office in John's Hole or from District Offices on the Sister Islands.

### What types of assistance can be provided under the Public Assistance Programme?

- Food and Household Supplies
- Utilities/Rent
- Childcare Assistance
- Funeral and Burial Assistance
- Monthly Financial Assistance
- Medical Assistance
- Transportation

- Emergency Assistance
- Clothing Assistance

### Can civic groups/organizations benefit from the Public Assistance Programme?

Public Assistance grants can only be disbursed on behalf of needy individuals or households.

Non-Profit Organisations engaged in voluntary community projects may apply for Community Development grants. Forms are available at [https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/forms/intake\\_application\\_2.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/forms/intake_application_2.pdf)

### Where do I go if I want to appeal the outcome of my application?

An appeal may be submitted by an individual who is not satisfied with the decision taken by the Public Assistance Committee. To file an appeal, complete a Notice of Appeal Form in addition to submitting a letter to the Chairperson of the Appeal Board. An appeal may be submitted by the applicant himself or herself, or on behalf of the applicant, within 30 days of receiving written notice of the outcome of the application for Public Assistance.

Notice of Appeal forms are available online at <https://bvi.gov.vg/content/ministry-health-and-social-development> or at the Ministry of Health and Social Development's main office, Ground Floor of the Sea Meadow House Building at Tobacco Wharf. All