

St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group

Next LTRG Town Hall is **MONDAY, August 26**
at **3:00pm**



The St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working within St. Croix to assist individuals and families as they recover from Hurricane Maria. The goal of the LTRG is to match recovery resources with community needs in order to ensure that even the most vulnerable in the community recover from the disaster.

To reach the office, please call (340) 713-4440 or email Christina Joseph, Executive Assistant, at cjoseph@stxltrg.org

The LTRG is part of the VISTA program-- and we want YOU!

Be a part of the first AmeriCorps VISTA Team in the VI for over 20 years! SCF is actively seeking to contract 15 local volunteers ages 21 and up who are interested in supporting 8 St. Croix nonprofits. Volunteers will perform activities such as community outreach, program development, grant research, and website development and will begin their full-time year of service on September 3, 2019. Each volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance, healthcare benefits, official VISTA gear and professional development training. Upon completing the first year of service, VISTAs are eligible to receive either the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or VISTA end-of-service cash stipend and one-year of noncompetitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. Interested volunteers are encouraged to apply at <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do> and search Virgin Islands.

We hope to have our VISTA's in place by Sept. 3, 2019 so please help us spread the word throughout the community.

VITEMA Enlists the Community as Emergency Response Support

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) is offering free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to the public on all three islands this month, equipping interested community volunteers with the necessary tools to assist governmental response in a time of crisis.

21 residents successfully completed the CERT training in the St. Thomas district on August 9th thru 11th and will serve as CERT members for the territory. CERTs are nationally recognized as part of the federal module for mitigation and response in the event of a crisis or natural hazard. CERT training educates volunteers about disasters that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks.

CERT classes include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course certificates as well as specific training in hurricane, flood, and tsunami mitigation and response. Establishing territory-wide CERTs will relieve

some of the challenges of first responders and permit for an increase of disaster training support throughout the territory.

St. Croix host its CERT training on August 23rd thru 25th at the St. Croix Rescue and at the VITEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) respectively. An additional training session is scheduled on St. Croix on August 30-Sept. 1st. Government employees are strongly encouraged to register. Residents must be age 18 or older to participate in CERT trainings.

For more information, contact Exercise Coordinator, Irvin Mason at Irvin.mason@vitema.vi.gov or by calling (340) 774-2244.

Mini-Grants for Faith Leaders Still Available



The St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group *Mini-Grant Program for Faith Leaders*

With the support of GlobalGiving and the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development, the St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group is offering a program of mini-grants to faith leaders, on the island of St. Croix, who want to engage in an outreach program (or increase capacity of a current program) related to the hurricanes of September 2017, recovery efforts, and preparedness activities for future disasters. The purpose of these mini-grants is to provide concrete assistance to projects to take action in your congregation, organization and/or community.

Mini-grant applications will be accepted beginning June 1, 2019 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The last date for submission is September 30, 2019.

You can download the application [HERE](#)

Save the Date: Faith Leaders Breakfast



SAVE THE DATE

Faith Leaders Breakfast

*(Please note **new** date)*

Monday, September 9, 2019

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Money Smart Train-the-Trainer workshop

The FDIC in New York will bring a Money Smart Train-the-Trainer workshop to St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix. The FDIC's Money Smart financial education program will help individuals and small businesses enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships. To assist the economic recovery process in the Virgin Islands, representatives from the FDIC will be conducting sessions in the territory to train people to become trainers on the Money Smart program.

St. Croix
August 27th

Who Should Attend?

Anyone whose target market is aspiring and existing entrepreneurs and has a mission to assist small businesses; staff of community-based organizations that offer small business development services and loans or work with entrepreneurs; financial institutions that have small business customers; local, state and federal government organizations that provide resources and information to organizations or entrepreneurs.

If you are interested in the workshop, please contact Gloria Lewis
Email: gloria.lewis@fema.dhs.gov
Phone: (256) 419-6289



MONEY SMART for SMALL BUSINESS Train-the-Trainer Workshop

What and Why?

Money Smart for Small Business (MSSB) is an instructor-led curriculum that provides a practical introduction to key topics related to starting and managing a business. Developed jointly by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 2012, this free resource has 13 modules, is available for download and in Spanish. A list of MSSB Alliance members is available at the FDIC website and is updated periodically as a reference for organizations or individuals that want to know who is offering MSSB near them. There is no cost, and it takes minutes to join the Alliance by completing a short online form. MSSB Alliance members convene on a quarterly basis to share their experiences on MSSB Town Hall conference calls.

Who should attend?

Anyone whose target market is aspiring and existing entrepreneurs and has a mission to assist small businesses; staff of community-based organizations that offer small business development services and loans or work with entrepreneurs; financial institutions that have small business customers; local, state and federal government organizations that provide resources and information to organizations or entrepreneurs.

Training Objectives: After completing a Train-The-Trainer workshop participants will be able to:

1. Present the MSSB Curriculum with confidence.
2. Explain how participants can become members of the MSSB Alliance and use the MSSB Curriculum to provide introductory business training to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in their communities.
3. List and describe at a high level, the goals and objectives of the MSSB Curriculum and assist participants in aligning MSSB goals with their organization's mission and strategic objectives.
4. Describe several ways to customize a MSSB Program to meet the diverse needs of small business owners who represent a range of business development stages and learning needs.
5. Identify best practices for working with subject matter experts to co-train some modules.
6. Describe effective ways to make the content of each module compelling and engaging.
7. Define best practices for evaluating the quality and impact of the MSSB Program within the MSSB Alliance Member organization.
8. Provide resources and tips to ensure MSSB instructors host a successful MSSB training program.

St. Croix - August 27, 2019

St. Thomas/St. John - August 29, 2019

**Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Locations will be included in the invitation to attend*

If you are interested in the workshop, please contact Gloria Lewis
Email: gloria.lewis@fema.dhs.gov
Phone: (256) 419-6289

Disaster Preparedness Assistance

The Preparedness Unit at FEMA has many resources available to you to plan for the upcoming storm season. In addition to the flyers below, they can provide technical assistance to your organization through training, exercising plans, and promoting disaster preparedness messaging and outreach.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact:
Emily Adams at Emily.adams@fema.dhs.gov

Available flyers to download:

[Hurricane Preparedness \(English\)](#)

[Hurricane Preparedness \(Spanish\)](#)

[Preparedness on a Budget \(English\)](#)

[Preparedness on a Budget \(Spanish\)](#)

[Make a Communication Plan \(English\)](#)

[Make a Communication Plan \(Spanish\)](#)

[Gather Your Supplies \(English and Spanish\)](#)

[Update Your Documents \(English and Spanish\)](#)

[Make a Medical Plan \(English\)](#)

[Pet Owners Preparedness \(English\)](#)

Preparedness for those living in single-family homes is very different from plans created for those who live in apartments.

Living in an apartment community poses some unique consideration. Sharing your walls and communal areas means some actions are your responsibilities, while others depend on your neighbors and management.

In this issue, we share valuable tips to help apartment residents prepare in case of a storm. Please share these tips with those who live in an apartment.

Thank you!



PROTECT YOUR HOME

Make sure the apartment is in good repair and safe for you to shelter-in-place.

- Bring in outdoor furniture, planters and other items from patios and balconies.
- Get shutters or panels for your sliding glass doors and windows. Ask the building's management or landlord if a specific style is required. If you're a renter, ask if your landlord provides them and who will install them before the storm.
- Identify your safest room, probably an interior bedroom, bath or hall, and stay there when windy conditions become threatening.
- Consider sheltering in an apartment on the lower level if you live on a higher floor.



STORE 10 DAYS' WORTH OF SUPPLIES

Storage space in apartments is often limited so storing your supplies may be challenging. If your kitchen is small, find space in a closet, under the bed or even behind the couch. Fill bathtubs and the washer with water that can be used to flush toilets and for sanitation needs.



STEER CLEAR OF WINDOWS

Don't stand near windows during a storm, and keep your curtains drawn. The National Hurricane Center advises against using tape since it can cause a false sense of security and also lead to larger, more dangerous shards of glass blowing through your apartment.

Now is the time to be prepared!

If you or someone in your family is experiencing issues with disaster-related stress, call the **Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990, TTY 1-800-846-8517.**

Promote the Hotline!

The LTRG has a dedicated HOTLINE for beneficiaries to use to get connected with Disaster Case Managers. Please share this flyer (in English and Spanish) broadly within our community. We don't want ANYONE to fall through the cracks!

[ENGLISH FLYER](#)

[SPANISH FLYER](#)



HOTLINE

DISASTER CAUSED UNMET NEED

IF YOU ARE A HURRICANE IRMA/MARIA DISASTER SURVIVOR STILL IN NEED OF **INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE** OR A **DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN** PLEASE CONTACT THE DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP AT THE NUMBER BELOW:

(340) 473 - 5305

"The mission of the STX LTRG is to help our members independently provide community services on a daily basis, as well as to provide effective relief and recovery services to people affected by disaster on the island of St. Croix, USVI."