



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2020

Press Contact

Richard Motta

340-474-2399

www.vi.gov

richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

FAA Awards U.S. Virgin Islands \$41 Million To Maintain Airports Under CARES Act Stimulus Bill

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Federal Aviation Administration has awarded the U.S. Virgin Islands \$41,145,247 to maintain the Territory's airport as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act federal stimulus bill.

Of the allotment, \$21,527,641 is earmarked for Cyril King Airport on St. Thomas and \$19,617,606 is for Henry Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix.

The federal funds are available to:

- Keep airports in reliable, safe operation to serve the aviation industry, the travelling public, and support the economy
- Keep airport and aviation workers employed
- Keep airport credit ratings stable

The money can be used for any purpose airport revenues may lawfully be used under the guidelines of the FAA's policy and procedures concerning the use of airport revenue and adhere to any additional requirements for new contracts for airport development.

The CARES Act, which was signed into law by the president on March 27, includes \$10 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports affected by the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act provides funds to increase the federal share to 100 percent for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and supplemental discretionary grants already planned for fiscal year 2020. Under normal circumstances, AIP grant recipients contribute a matching percentage of the project costs. Providing this additional funding and eliminating the local share allows critical safety and capacity projects to continue as planned regardless of airport sponsors' current financial circumstances.

Additionally, the CARES Act provides new funds distributed by various formulas for all airports that are part of the national airport system. This includes all commercial service airports, all reliever airports and some public-owned general aviation airports.

The FAA plans to make these funds available in April.

####