

Congress of the United States

STACEY E. PLASKETT
VIRGIN ISLANDS

House of Representatives

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the **VI Senior and Youth Technology Learning Center** in fiscal year 2027. The public entity project sponsor to receive funding for this project is Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN, Inc.), located in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 2179 King Cross Street, Christiansted, VI 00820. The anticipated location of the project is 1 Friedensthal, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820.

The requested funding would be used by viNGN to acquire the property at 1 Friedensthal, Christiansted, St. Croix from the Moravian Church of St. Croix, to be rehabilitated into a publicly accessible senior and youth technology learning center. The building previously housed the Legislature of the Virgin Islands but has been abandoned and deteriorated since Hurricane Marilyn in 1995. Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017) further closed approximately half of the Territory's libraries and all public computing centers, eliminating digital access for thousands of residents. The center will provide free, publicly accessible digital skills training including computer classes for older adults, assistive device seminars for people with disabilities, continuing education for military veterans, and afterschool STEM programs. This funding is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will permanently address the loss of community learning infrastructure caused by the 2017 hurricanes, convert a long-blighted, storm-damaged structure into a permanent public asset, and provide free digital skills training to seniors, youth, veterans, and people with disabilities across St. Croix — bridging the local digital skills gap and catalyzing economic growth for low- and moderate-income residents.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S. Code §§ 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress