



CARIBBEAN EXPLORATORY  
RESEARCH CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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**USVI PDG B-5 Leadership**

**Noreen Michael, PhD**  
Principal Investigator

**Janis Valmond, DrPH, CHES**  
Co-Investigator

**LaVerne E. Ragster, PhD**  
Senior Research Associate

**Deborah Brown, PhD**  
Research Associate

**Tannesia E. Petersen**  
Project Coordinator

**TBD**  
Communications Specialist

*In collaboration with the VI  
Department of Human Services*

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No. 2 John Brewers Bay  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802  
RR1 Box 10000  
Kingshill, St. Croix USVI 00850



# PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)

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**WHO?** A team of researchers from the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is leading the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) for the US Virgin Islands.

**WHAT?** The USVI's PDG B-5 Project, *Road to Success: Developing an early child care and education mixed delivery system for the B-5 population in the USVI*, is funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Working with partners from key agencies—the Departments of Education and Health; the two FQHCs in the Territory; Lutheran Social Services of the USVI, and UVI's Schools of Education and Nursing, and the State Advisory Council, the research team will complete several key activities, to include a Needs Assessment of the availability and quality of USVI B-5 programs and the development of a Strategic Plan.

**WHEN?** The project is funded for one year — December 31, 2018—December 30, 2019. Work commenced in January 2019.

**WHERE?** The PDG B-5 Research Team is based at UVI. The work of the PDG B-5 core team, partners, and SAC will take place in both the St. Croix and St. Thomas-St. John districts.

**WHY?** The PDG B-5 project is intended to strengthen the ECE mixed-delivery system in the USVI; improve the quality of care; foster collaboration and partnerships among ECE providers; maximize available, high quality ECE options for low-income and disadvantaged families; and maximize parental choice among ECE programs and providers in the USVI.

**HOW?** The research team will work with a core team from the VI Department of Human Services, representatives of key partner agencies, and members of the USVI's State Advisory Council to: complete a needs assessment; develop a strategic plan; provide information to maximize parental choice and knowledge about the USVI's early childhood care and education programs (ECE); share best practices among ECE providers; and support the improvement of the USVI's ECE programs.