

Long-Term Care Reform in the

VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state Area Agency on Aging in the Virgin Islands. The Department operates two Homes for the Aged with a total of 65 residential beds, and plans are being developed to expand bed capacity and services in the near future.¹

Major Initiative

Home and Community-Based Services. DHS administers Older Americans Act programs, which include:

- Meals on Wheels,
- Homemaker Services,
- Family Caregiver Support Program,
- Information and Referral Services, and
- Socio-Recreational programs.

In addition, several community and faith-based organizations provide meals, homemaker services, in-home personal care, and companionship programs. The Corporation for National and Community Service funds Retired Senior Volunteer and Foster Grandparents programs.

Nursing Home and Residential Care. One privately owned and operated nursing home, Sea View, is on the island of St. Thomas. In addition, nonprofit community organizations and governmental agencies operate several Independent Living Facilities.

Other Developments & Future Outlook

Federal Grant. The Department of Human Services received a three-year grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging to recruit and train volunteers for a Senior Medicare Patrol to educate Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and their caregivers about how to protect themselves from fraud and any abusive health care practices. The program will receive \$75,000 a year through May 2009.

¹ This profile is excerpted from the full report *A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform (#2008-10)*.