

**December
2025**



 **GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS**
Ministry of Health
and Social Development



Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme Policy

*Honouring Our Elders,
Preserving Our Legacy*



**Prepared by:
The Ministry of Health and Social
Development and the Social
Development Department**

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Cabinet Approval

Approval Process	Dates/References
Approved by Cabinet	10 th December, 2025 via Memo No. 198/2025
Approval Extract	EXP/198/2025

Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme Policy



Introduction

Since 2002, the Government of the Virgin Islands has honoured Virgin Islanders who reach the remarkable milestone of 100 years. Traditionally, eligible centenarians received a one-time financial grant of \$5,000 in recognition of their longevity and contribution to society.

Under the updated policy of the Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme, all eligible Virgin Islanders regardless of residency will now receive a one-time financial grant of \$10,000. Centenarians living in a government-operated facility or in government housing are also eligible for the grant. In addition, they are honoured with visits from senior government officials, including the Governor, the Premier, and the Minister for Health and Social Development. As part of the celebrations, centenarians may also receive a commemorative card from His Majesty the King, which is facilitated through the Governor's Office, in addition to floral arrangements and other commemorative gifts presented by the Government of the Virgin Islands. Centenarians who fall in the category of Belongers and residing in the Territory are now also entitled to a card and gift.

On each subsequent birthday, centenarians will continue to be recognised with annual visits and receive a bouquet of flowers or a fruit basket to commemorate their special day.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Age Requirement:

- Must be 100 years of age or older.

2. Status Requirement:

- Must be a Virgin Islander or Belonger, defined as:

- a) A Virgin Islander in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, whether by birth or descent; or
- b) A person who has been granted Belonger status through the appropriate legal process.
- Virgin Islanders and Belongers residing in a government-operated facility are also eligible to receive the centenarian award.

Eligible centenarians will receive the benefits outlined in the Recognition and Benefits section.

Recognition and Benefits

Centenarians who meet the eligibility criteria will receive the following:

1. For centenarians residing in the Virgin Islands, including centenarians residing in a Government-operated facility:
 - A one-time monetary gift of \$10,000 USD from the Government of the Virgin Islands;
 - A celebratory card from His Majesty the King (facilitated through the Governor's Office);
 - A plaque and a gift/fruit basket presented by the Minister responsible for Social Development; and
 - Commemorative family photo highlights as a keepsake.
2. For centenarians residing abroad:
 - A one-time monetary gift of \$10,000 USD from the Government of the Virgin Islands; and
 - A celebratory card from His Majesty the King (facilitated through the Governor's Office);
3. For Belongers (granted Belonger status by the government through the appropriate legal process) centenarian residing in the Territory:
 - Not eligible for the financial grant;
 - A celebratory card from His Majesty the King (facilitated through the Governor's Office);
 - A gift/fruit basket presented by the Minister responsible for Social Development;

Application Process

A nearest surviving relative or designated family member may apply on behalf of the centenarian. The completed application form, along with supporting documentation, should be submitted to the Social Development Department for onward transmission to the Public Assistance Committee for approval.

Application Deadline: Applications should preferably be submitted at least six months prior to the centenarian's 100th birthday to ensure timely processing.

Late Applications: Applications submitted after this timeline will still be accepted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Already 100+: A person who has already attained their 100th birthday is also eligible to apply.

Required Supporting Documents

Please submit clear and legible copies of the following documents along with the application:

- Birth certificate or passport of the applicant;
- National Health Insurance (NHI) card (residents only);
- Social Security Card (if available – preferred but not mandatory);
- One form of official government-issued photo identification, such as:
 - Driver's licence,
 - Voter's ID card,
 - National ID card, or
 - Any other official photo ID issued by a recognised government authority;
- One passport-sized photo of the applicant.

Alternative Identification

If the applicant does not have any of the official photo identification documents listed above, a notarised letter or affidavit from a reputable person who can credibly confirm the applicant's identity may be accepted. Acceptable referees include:

- A member of the clergy;
- A Member of the House of Assembly;

- A senior public officer;
- A justice of the peace;
- A medical doctor; or
- A lawyer.

The referee must have known the applicant personally for at least two years.

Register of Seniors and Persons Aged 95 and Older

To support advanced planning, the Social Development Department maintains a confidential register of all seniors under its care, including a dedicated register of residents aged 95 years and older. This registry supports the Department's broader mandate for senior care and enables proactive outreach and service delivery. It is updated annually. Specifically for the Centenarian Programme, the Department will use the 95+ register to notify the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Governor's Office at least six weeks prior of an individual reaching their 100th birthday.

Submission Options

Completed forms and supporting documents may be hand-delivered or submitted via email to:

Social Development Department

Road Town Senior Citizens Building (adjacent to the BVI Red Cross Building)

Second floor

John's Hole, Tortola, Virgin Islands

Email: socialdevelopment@gov.vg

Funding

The Centenarian Programme is funded through the Seniors' Recreational Programme under the Social Development Department:

- Head: 26534164
- Subhead: 572250

Public Recognition and Communications

A press release will be issued to announce when individuals benefit from the Centenarian Programme, highlighting the initial grant of \$10,000 and visits from government officials.

The official delegation presenting the award typically includes:

- The Governor;
- The Premier;
- The Minister for Health and Social Development; and
- The District Representative.

For subsequent birthdays, the Minister for Health and Social Development will conduct a courtesy visit, presenting a bouquet of flowers or a fruit/gift basket to honour the centenarian.

Conclusion

The Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme is a prestigious recognition initiative designed to honour and celebrate residents who reach 100 years of age. Through financial assistance, commemorative gifts, and official visits, the Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to valuing and supporting its centenarian population.

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Virgin Islands Centenarian Programme
APPLICATION FORM

Please print clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTENARIAN

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
_____	_____	_____

BIRTH DATE

ADDRESS

Month	Day	Year	
_____	_____	_____	

TELEPHONE NO

SEX

() _____ - _____	☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
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NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE NO.
(residents only - if applicable)

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.
(if applicable)

_____	_____
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NHI and Social Security numbers are requested for local administrative purposes but are not required for applicants residing outside of the Virgin Islands.

CENTENARIAN'S BACKGROUND

Provide a brief background on the centenarian: Extend space or attach additional information, if necessary.

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME

TELEPHONE NO	EMAIL ADDRESS
() _____ - _____	

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT:

Will the family be hosting a celebration event? ☐ Yes ☐ No

DECLARATION BY APPLICANT/REPRESENTATIVE

I, _____ (print name of representative), on behalf of _____ (name of applicant), confirm that the applicant is eligible for the Centenarian Programme as a Virgin Islander or Belonger in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, or through the appropriate legal process. I certify that the details provided in this application are true and correct.

Signature of Applicant/Representative

Date

Please submit the completed application form along with the required supporting documents to verify the applicant's age, identity, place of birth, residency, and citizenship. Original documents will not be accepted. Copies must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths, Notary Public, or a Public Official (e.g., a Member of the House of Assembly or a Senior Public Officer at Grade 14 or above).

You may hand-deliver or email the completed form and supporting documents to:

Social Development Department
Road Town Senior Citizens Building (adjacent to the BVI Red Cross Building)
Second floor
John's Hole, Tortola, Virgin Islands
Email: socialdevelopment@gov.vg

Document Certification

I certify that the documents submitted are true and correct copies of the original.

_____ for _____
(Type of Document) Name of Centenarian Date

Name Position / Title Date