

GOVERNMENT
USVI DISASTER
RECOVERY PROGRAMS



CASE STUDY | U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORY-WIDE RECOVERY

LEADING DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAMS FROM HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA

CHALLENGE

The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) received wind and rain impacts from two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, causing billions of dollars in damage. With significant damage to housing and infrastructure and a lack of government resources, the territorial government elected to contract for a variety of disaster recovery and reconstruction services. One of those needs is contractor support for Public Assistance program grants management, incorporating Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) implementation, which also includes Benefit Cost Analyses (BCAs) development.

SOLUTION

As part of multiple contract awards, including the USVI Program Management Office, Witt O'Brien's has helped the USVI with response, recovery and mitigation program management. We have supported the following programs:

- **Sheltering, Temporary and Essential Power (STEP) Program**
Completed the \$233 million FEMA Sheltering, Temporary and Essential Power (STEP) program which included temporary repairs to 6,560 homes and permanent roof repairs to 1,648 homes - Governor Bryan declared the STEP Program a 'success' in his 2020 State of the Territory address.
- **FEMA Public Assistance Recovery Grant Program**
Currently managing the \$3 billion FEMA Public Assistance recovery grant program. Our team has developed over 229 Project Worksheets (PWs) for Hurricane Irma in the amount of \$70.8 million and over 662 total PWs in the amount of \$2.2 billion for Hurricane Maria.
- **HUD CDBG-DR Recovery Grant Program**
Currently supporting the \$1.9 billion CDBG-DR recovery grant program with a myriad of essential projects covering housing, infrastructure and economic recovery. Successfully persuaded HUD to revise their funding allocation in recognition of the high cost of construction in the Territory bringing in more than a quarter billion extra dollars. Received approval of original Action Plan and Amendments.



GOVERNMENT

Experience is vital when you're responsible for your community's safety and welfare. Our team has managed all types of disaster, from terrorism and cyber attacks to hurricanes and wildfires. Many of us have done so in government roles.

CONTACT AN EXPERT



Brad Gair
SENIOR MANAGING
DIRECTOR

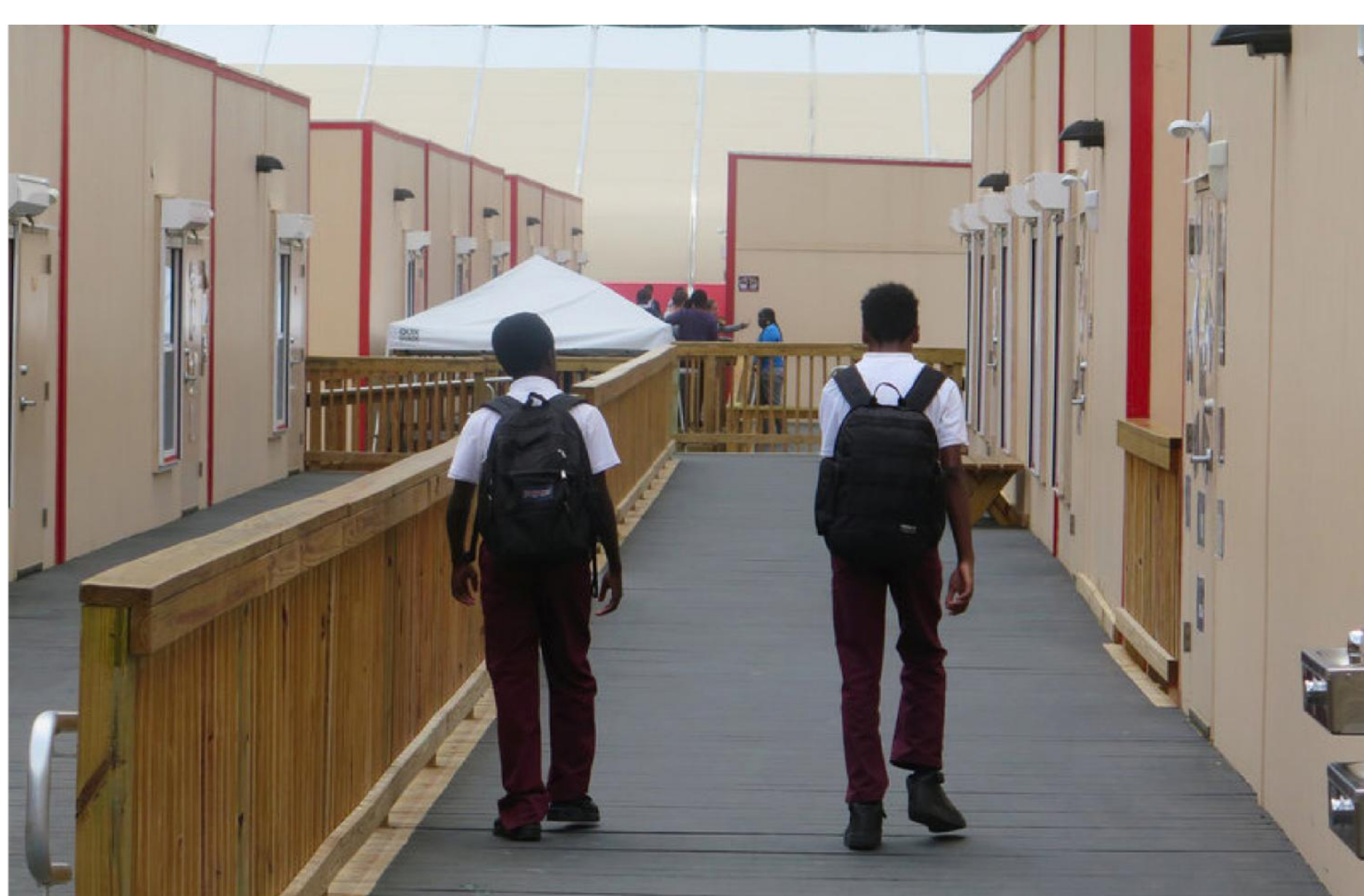
bgair@wittobriens.com



Bill Roche
SENIOR PROJECT
MANAGER

wroche@wittobriens.com





- **404 & 406 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**
Leading the \$384 million FEMA 404 and 406 Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP), including agency outreach, applicant briefings, the notice of interest process, development of grant applications, post-award kick-off meetings, and support through the project implementation phase. Our team has developed more than 33 HMGP applications for projects including a \$4.9 million comprehensive mitigation plan; a \$7.3 million code enforcement project to update geodetic benchmarks; and other projects including the retrofit / reconstruction of numerous fire stations, coral and mangrove restoration, coastal flooding and erosion reduction, and more. To date, more than \$384 million of mitigation measures have been written in permanent work repair projects.
- **Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Team**
Serving as an extension of the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Public Works (DPW) Division of Highways providing engineering and construction management expertise and assisting DPW with managing the design and construction of roughly \$1.2 billion in various roadway projects throughout the Territory to bring roads to federal standards. Conducted a comprehensive roadway inventory and damage assessment and are supporting implementation of a \$500 million capital improvement program for the Territory's transportation system.

RESILIENCE DELIVERED

Witt O'Brien's helped create the recovery strategy for the Territory and provided strategic support with obtaining grant funding by integrating multiple Federal funding sources, insurance and local resources totaling more than \$8 billion. Additional resiliencies delivered include:

- Negotiated with FEMA to successfully increase the per unit construction funding cap to be more in line with the funding needed to repair the damaged homes from \$20,000 per home to ultimately more than \$50,000 per home.
- Assisted with the establishment of Virgin Islands Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) Project Management Office (PMO).
- Developed risk management plans for the Office of Disaster Recovery's Top 100 Projects.
- Assisted Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) with temporary modular classroom program and with restoration and replacement of several schools throughout USVI.
- Developed the 1st and 2nd Annual Progress Report for the Office of Disaster Recovery.

WITH YOU WHEN IT COUNTS

