



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA Recognized Second Year in a Row with Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation™

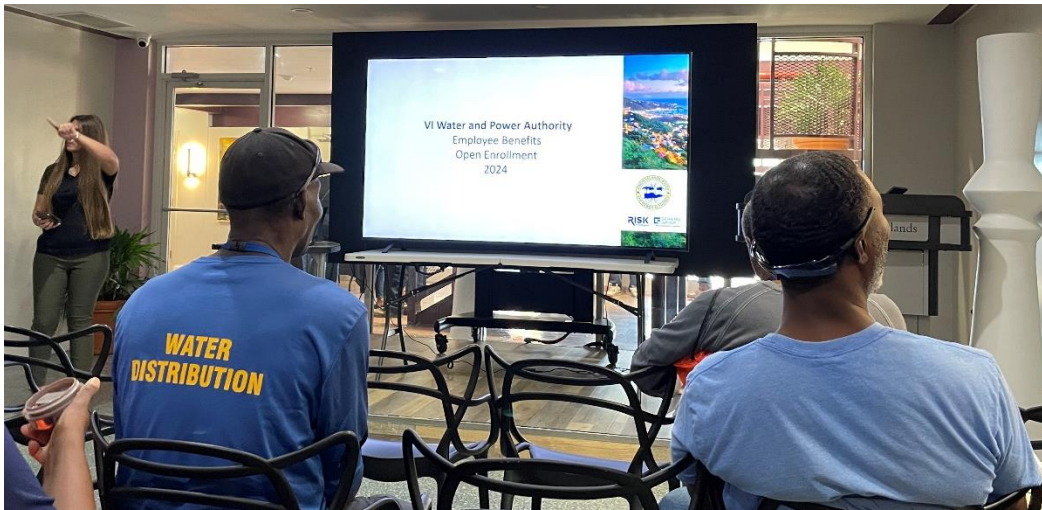


Image: Employees participating in workshop for Open Enrollment at the 2023 Internal WAPA Health Fair that saw over 400 participants territory-wide. This event also invited several health and wellness vendors to provide information and services to WAPA employees.

U.S. Virgin Islands – February 22, 2024 – Cigna has for the second year in a row selected the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) as a recipient of the Healthy Workforce Designation for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the health and vitality of its employees through a workplace well-being program. The 2023 Gold Cigna Health Workforce Designation is a level up from last year’s Bronze Designation emphasizing the improvement WAPA has undergone to create experiences to improve overall health of employees.

The Authority engaged its employees in health and wellness activities, leadership championed health initiatives and programs, conducted webinar sessions and in-person workshops to aid employees and their families in improving their overall health and wellness, and had tremendous participation at fitness activities hosted by the Government of the Virgin Islands Personnel division, including Battle of the Agencies.

Vitality is defined as the capacity to pursue life with health, strength and energy. It is both a driver and an outcome of health and work/life engagement, and Cigna Healthcare believes it is not only essential to individuals, but also

a catalyst for business and community growth. Research conducted as part of the [Evernorth Vitality Index](#) confirms that those with higher vitality experience better mental and physical health along with higher levels of job satisfaction and performance. An opportunity remains for employers as less than one in five U.S. adults report having high levels of vitality. A workplace well-being program that takes a comprehensive approach to employee health can be critical in boosting vitality and building a workforce that experiences better overall health and job productivity.

“The Gold Healthy Workforce designation by Cigna underscores our dedication and endeavors to elevate the health and wellness of our employees. Securing this prestigious accolade for two consecutive years is a resounding testament to our persistent commitment in creating a competitive workplace environment. Our pursuit revolves around fostering a culture that places importance on maintaining a healthy and supportive workspace for every member of our team,” said Sabrina King-Leonce, Human Resources Director.

“We are deeply proud to receive once more the prestigious Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation,” noted CEO Andrew Smith, VI WAPA. “At our core, we prioritize the well-being and health of our employees above all else. We recognize that nurturing a healthy workforce is not just beneficial but integral to our success. Our commitment stems from the understanding that when our employees thrive, so does the Authority. Their health and happiness fuel a more productive, fulfilled workforce, leading to outstanding performance across the board.” said CEO Smith.

“Higher vitality is linked to a more motivated, connected, and productive workforce,” said Kari Knight Stevens, executive vice president and chief human resources officer, The Cigna Group. “Employers that foster vitality will fuel a healthier workplace and drive business and economic growth. That’s why we’re proud to recognize employers for their efforts to prioritize multiple dimensions of wellness, build a culture of health, and boost employee engagement.”

The Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation evaluates organizations based on the core components of their well-being program, including leadership and culture, program foundations and execution, policies and accommodations, and additional areas. Organizations recognized with this designation set the standard of excellence for organizational health and vitality. Cigna Healthcare is proud to honor the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority with the Gold level designation for having made good progress towards a healthy work culture by establishing and growing their employee well-being and engagement program.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

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