

Miguel A Vivaldi-Oliver

To: *Puerto Rico Task Force*

Form: *Miguel A. Vivaldi-Oliver*

Miguel

Date: *August 31st, 2016*

Re: *Economic Growth thru Access to Existing Competitive Federal Programs*

Dear Congressman and Congresswoman:

My name is Miguel A. Vivaldi-Oliver, I live on Puerto Rico, and have experience in Information Technology, Business Development and some knowledge about the federal programs.

I also want to let you know that last July 2015, I had a liver transplant. A second chance on life, which make me to work to the betterment of Puerto Rico and its citizens.

As part of the hope that "PROMESA" might assist in bring some order to the Puerto Rico government chaos, I decide to offer some insight, up to my limited knowledge might allow me.

I understand that the Task Force would evaluate the federal landscape to recommend the necessary modification on existing Federal programs which will allow Puerto Rico to access existing programs that are currently unavailable.

Here are my suggestions:

1. Puerto Rico face as well as the US a challenge to make available quality healthcare access to all US Citizens. Telemedicine is a method, were a patient receives medical care services and/or treatment from medical professional (Physicians, therapist, etc) which are not in the same place. Telemedicine is not just a video conference of a medical consultation. Telemedicine is a Real Time interaction of the patient, his medical record, and the medical devices, where the Medical practitioner take advantage from Telecommunication Technology. Is considered identical to a medical traditional visit, except that the doctor and the patient are not in the same place.

There are several programs for competitive grants available on the Catalog of Federal Assistance. It is on the Congress power to allow Puerto Rico entities, to participate on such programs (in some of them Puerto Rico might be able to participate)

- a. USDA Telecommunications Distance Learning and Telemedicine program
- b. USDA Community Connect program
- c. FCC – Healthcare Connect Fund
- d. Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation Award
- e. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) programs.
- f. HS&S Healthcare Facilities Emergency Care Partnership Program
- g. Exempt many Puerto Rico Municipalities from USDA RUS Programs qualification requirement based on population and distance because many of them even when are densely populated and within 50 miles of a metropolitan area, their social and economic behavior is more similar to rural areas.

Puerto Rico geography, distance and service availability is limited outside the metro area, which is composed of San Juan, Bayamon, Guaynabo, Trujillo Alto, Caguas and Carolina.

- ii. Higher education is a key aspect of a quality workforce. The University of Puerto Rico, consist of 11 campuses. The disparities on each campus infrastructures, create a challenge when modernizing its curriculums and delivering a graduates ready to enter to the 21st century workforce. One of the biggest hurdles is the lack of a Communications & Technology standardized plan, which results in the lack of an attractive offering for the Millennium Generation which cause to the loss of new students.

It is imperative that the University prepare the foundation to become a next-generation University by growing and build a 21st century educational curriculum based on workforce opportunities and with a strong STEM education, which will spur the economic development.

The best way to assist the University is to guarantee that the Campuses are able to access the following programs;

- a. TechHire Partnership Grants
- b. CC*DNI Program
- c. FCC Anchor Institution Program
- d. USDA DLT Program
- e. Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education
- f. Territories and Freely Associated States Education Grant Program
- g. Language Resource Centers
- h. Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers
- i. High School Graduation Initiative

- j. Supporting Effective Educator Development Program
 - k. Consolidated Grant to the Outlying Areas
 - l. Ready-To-Learn Television
 - m. Rural Education
 - n. Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
 - o. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education
 - p. English Language Acquisition State Grants
 - q. Higher Education Institutional Aid
- iii. Regarding the Public Safety of our citizens, many police departments are making decisions about whether to acquire technologies that did not exist 10 years ago,—technologies like automated license plate readers, gunshot detection systems, facial recognition software, predictive analytics systems, communications systems that bring data to officers' laptops or handheld devices, GPS applications, and social media to investigate crimes and communicate with the public

The biggest challenge is not deciding whether to adopt one particular technology but rather finding the right mix of technologies for a given jurisdiction based on its crime problems, funding levels, and other factors. Finding the best mix of technologies, however, must begin with a thorough understanding of each type of technology.

Puerto Rico Public Safety Agencies in collaboration with private sector should be allowed to participate on the following active program;

- a. Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program
- b. Project Safe Neighborhoods
- c. Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation
- d. Smart Policing Initiative
- e. Urban Areas Security Initiative
- f. Technology Innovation for Public Safety Information sharing and collaboration
- g. Policies and practices that leverage technology
- h. Implementing information sharing solutions
- i. Improving the quantity and quality of information sharing programs
- j. Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program.

Regarding the Public Safety situation, also access to the Eduard Bryne JAG Local Solicitation for specific initiatives such as money laundering and tax evasion will also spur economic development.

The evasion of income taxes has caused Puerto Rico budget great damage. The taxpayer wants to increase his income also by means of income tax evasion, while probably takes into consideration the probability of detection and the extent of monetary fines and other penalties.

Repelling income tax evasion can only be achieved by various means. One alternative is to analyze legal income v. lifestyle to identify criminal actions such as drug trafficking and money laundering, and even Social Security and Medicare fiscal obligations.

According to experts in national security, specific criminal activities and the frequency of occurrence of these acts of violence, increase under economic turmoil, something we are experiencing in Puerto Rico during the past months.

Where there's money tied to a criminal activity, there's a crook who wants to legitimize the money so it can be used legally. It is through the division of tax crimes that tax evaders cases are channeled to the Justice Department and other federal agencies; these after long and slow building the evidence based filing, and certifying such evidence.

Hope this information might assist on the challenge you are facing.

For any questions or any additional information you might reach me at 787-309-1858 or at MVivaldi@TheVivaldiGroup.com

Regards and God bless you all.

About Miguel A. Vivaldi-Oliver

Mr. Vivaldi has specialized on the evaluation, the development and recommendations of Public Safety, Distant Learning and Telemedicine technological solutions. Focused from the planning and design to the implementation of integrated/interoperable Information Technology Solutions, prioritizing business and governmental objectives. Our focus is to develop a sustainable solution using federal programs (if available) as a component of the financial and operational planning. He assists in identifying funding programs up to perform the application and Grant writing in pursuit of submitting a potential winning application.

He is best known for consistently and effectively improving and turning around underperforming IT operations, Process IT Automation and IT Re engineering.

Vivaldi is a well-known, highly respected Entrepreneur and Business leader with more than 25 years of experience in IT management, consulting, assessment, strategic planning and technology implementation.

Mr. Vivaldi has held several management and supervisory positions on the private sector, Mortgage Banking (Metmor Financial), Telecommunications (TLD of PR), Hospitality (Palmas del Mar), and Manufacturing (Ashton Tate of Puerto Rico, SmithKline Beecham - Chemical, Atlantic Pipe Corp) where his responsibilities included Information Technology Infrastructure administration, the Oversight the IT strategy and IT operational and Capital budgets, the Implementation of Administrative, HRIS, Accounting and Manufacturing system, Local area Network, Wide Area Network, Develop and provide end-user support and training on computer applications, Y2K Compliance, PBX and Database Administrator.

In recent years he had participated as a two time member of the Board of Directors, at the Chamber of Commerce of Puerto Rico, where he chaired the Technology Affairs and Telecommunications Committee 4th times. In November 2011, chaired the 1st Chamber of Commerce of Puerto Rico, "Puerto Rico Telecom Conference 2011 "The New Future"; a one day conference that provided attendees the unique opportunity to exchange ideas on telecommunications technologies, Internet, and digital information trends. The event was designed to assist local businesses grow, reach new markets, and innovate. We also hear from industry experts talk about the emerging business opportunities in the telecommunications segment of the rapidly evolving in Puerto Rico, USA and the world. Currently he is developing the program for the 2nd edition of these event, expected to be held in the 1st quarter of 2014.

He was also active in the Sales and Marketing Executives Association (SME), the Puerto Rican Institute of Mutual Assistance to Cuba and The Inter-American Businessman Association. Mr. Vivaldi has also served as a volunteer for SCORE, an SBA-sponsored group that provides advice on entrepreneurial development as well as other professional associations.

Miguel possess a Bachelor degree in Science and Math from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus