

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery  
and E-mail: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)

February 22, 2022

**HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE**, *Speaker*  
*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
*36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-03**

*Hafa Adai* Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-03: RELATIVE TO REACTIVATING PRUGRĀMAN  
SALĀPPE' AYUDON I TAOTAO TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DIRECT AID TO  
ALLEVIATE THE RISING COST OF GAS**

Thank you.

*Senseremente,*

  
**LESLIE A. TRAVIS**  
*Legal Counsel*

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2022-03

cc via email: *Maga'hāgan Guåhan*  
*Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guåhan*  
Hon. F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice of Guam  
Compiler of Law  
Central Files  
Cabinet Members



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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-03**

**RELATIVE TO REACTIVATING PRUGRÅMAN SALÅPPE' AYUDON I TAOTAO TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DIRECT AID TO ALLEVIATE THE RISING COST OF GAS**

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, I, Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, acting pursuant to the power provided by the Organic Act of Guam and the laws of Guam, declared a public health emergency in the island of Guam due to dangers posed by the 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has, without question severely impacted industry here in Guam, in particular, the tourism industry and supporting industries; and

**WHEREAS**, our administration has successfully launched diverse programs to assist businesses and individuals weather the economic uncertainty caused by this pandemic, including small business assistance, bereavement grants, mortgage, and rental assistance, additional cash assistance to families, displaced worker job placements, and unemployment benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the substantial assistance provided to the community, our island continues to suffer from the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2020, in Executive Order No. 2020-12, utilizing funds our island received from the federal government pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), I directed the establishment of Prugramån Salåppe' Ayudon I Taotao Program ("Prugramån Salåppe'") to provide financial assistance to a class of individuals victimized by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Prugramån Salåppe was administered by the Department of Public Health and Social Services ("DPHSS") with administrative and technical support from the Department of Administration ("DOA"); and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to assist communities throughout the United States to recover from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the United States Congress passed, and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed, Public Law No. 117-2, which establishes what is known as the American Rescue Plan ("ARP"); and

**WHEREAS**, the ARP provides direct financial assistance to states and territories to support urgent pandemic response efforts to decrease the spread of the virus, replace lost revenue for governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs, support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address systemic public health and economic challenges that have resulted to some communities suffering more severely from the pandemic impacts than others; and



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**WHEREAS**, ARP monies are federal grants provided directly for use by the executive branches of states and territories to use according to federal guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 21, 2021, ARP funds were disbursed to the DOA; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 6, 2022, the Department of Treasury issued its Final Rule ("Final Rule"), which establishes eligibility criteria for the use of ARP funds, compliance and financial reporting, and key dates for local government actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Rule provides that ARP funds are eligible for use to provide assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Rule specifically provides that in considering whether a potential use of ARP funds is eligible under the aforementioned category, the recipient jurisdiction must consider the extent to which the household experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic, including unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 2021, our island has effectively reopened most businesses and activities with conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, as our community returns to work, and the mobility of our population increases, we are once again faced with the reality of high gas prices; and

**WHEREAS**, gas prices fluctuate regularly based on numerous factors, including the increase in crude oil prices; and

**WHEREAS**, crude oil prices have risen 13% in the past month, resulting in a nationwide surge in gas prices in 2022, with the national average up 97.2 cents from one year ago; and

**WHEREAS**, it can reasonably be expected that the rise in gas prices will inevitably lead to a rise in utility prices, that could further impact the ability of many in our community to get back on their feet; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of our efforts to revive our economy and help our people get back to work, and to enable those in our community hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic to meet the surging prices at the pump, I have directed the DOA to reactivate the established Prugramån Saláppe' program to provide additional direct aid to low-or-moderate income individuals and households, determined according to ARP Final Rule eligibility requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, because the ARP Final Rule modified income eligibility for direct aid programs, DOA will establish an updated eligibility schedule which takes into account the income and household size of the applicant based on the ARP Final Rule eligibility requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, DOA will begin accepting applications for the program on March 15, 2022, under which amounts will be paid out monthly for a period of three (3) consecutive months following verification of the application; and



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**WHEREAS**, Prugramån Salåppe, as originally launched and through this reactivation, is one of many programs our administration has implemented in its multi-prong approach of utilizing ARP funds to provide meaningful assistance to our community as it recovers from the deleterious effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, it is my hope that this measure helps the members of our community who need it the most to meet the immediate challenges that come with starting anew, as they head back to work, in our grocery stores and our hospitals, in our restaurants and our schools, and that providing this support to our working community will help fortify our people, our economy, and ultimately, the future of our island.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam as amended, do hereby order:

1. **REACTIVATION OF THE PRUGRAMÅN SALÅPPE' AYUDON I TAOTAO PROGRAM.** The Prugramån Salåppe' Ayudon I Taotao Program ("Prugramån Salåppe'"), established in Executive Order No. 2020-12, is hereby reactivated to distribute additional direct aid cash assistance for individuals and households to alleviate the rising cost of gas.
2. **ADMINISTERING AGENCY.** The Department of Administration ("DOA") shall administer the reactivated Prugramån Salåppe' Program, including development of an application process. The Program shall include the following requirements:
  - a. Applicants must meet program eligibility requirements established by the DOA based on household income thresholds and household size, which the DOA shall establish based on eligibility requirements of the ARP Final Rule.
  - b. Based on these eligibility requirements, the DOA shall develop an application process and begin accepting applications no later than March 15, 2022. DOA shall ensure that direct cash assistance is processed for payment to eligible applicants no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of verification of eligibility.
  - c. Cash assistance under the reactivated Prugramån Salåppe' Program shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for each eligible household paid each month for three (3) months, for a total Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) per eligible household.
  - d. The DOA must provide a system of reporting to ensure accountability, which shall include a verifiable certification of income and household size. Information provided by applicants may be subject to further verification at DOA's discretion.



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- e. Amounts paid under this Program are intended to assist individuals and families who have experienced adverse economic impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such amounts are not income, and not subject to garnishment or local income taxation.
  - f. Applications shall be accepted until April 15, 2022.
3. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Order that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this order are severable.
4. **PRIOR ORDERS REMAIN IN EFFECT.** All prior Executive Orders remain in full force and effect except to the extent they conflict with this Order.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** at Hagåtña, Guam, this **22nd** day of **February 2022**.

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

**Attested by:**

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Lt. Governor of Guam

