

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

June 23, 2022

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guāhan
36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-16

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker:

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

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-16: RELATIVE TO EXPANDING
PRUGRĀMAN SALĀPPE' AYUDON I TAOTAO TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL DIRECT AID**

Thank you.

Senseremente,


JEFFREY A. MOOTS
Legal Counsel

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2022-16

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



**ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-16

**RELATIVE TO EXPANDING PRUGRĀMAN SALĀPPE' AYUDON I
TAOTAO TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DIRECT AID**

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 on the island of Guam due to dangers posed by the 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, our Administration has successfully launched diverse programs to help businesses and individuals weather the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, including programs relating to small business assistance, bereavement grants, mortgage and rental assistance, cash assistance for families in need, displaced worker job placements, and unemployment benefits; 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 established Prugrāman Salāppe' Ayudon I Taotao Program (hereinafter "Prugrāman Salāppe' 1") to provide financial relief to individuals victimized by the COVID-19 pandemic, identified as households whose gross monthly income is equal to or less than 165% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, to assist communities throughout the United States to recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the United States Congress passed, and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed, Public Law No. 117-2, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"); and

WHEREAS, the ARPA provides direct financial assistance to states and territories to support urgent pandemic response efforts to slow 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 pandemic impacts than others; and

WHEREAS, our island's businesses and activities have reopened, and we have shifted our focus to implementing aggressive recovery efforts to enhance and stabilize our economy; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of fuel has hindered COVID recovery efforts across the nation; and

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

WHEREAS, in furtherance of our efforts to restore our economy, to help our people get back to work, and to help those in our community most impacted by the COVID-19



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pandemic meet the surging prices at the pump, on February 22, 2022, through Executive Order No. 2022-03, I reactivated Prugrãman Salãppe' (hereinafter "Prugrãman Salãppe' 2") to provide additional direct aid to low-or-moderate income individuals and households, as determined by the eligibility requirements provided in the ARPA Final Rule issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, because the ARPA Final Rule modified income eligibility for direct aid programs, the Guam Department of Administration ("DOA") established an updated eligibility schedule that considered the income and household size of the applicant based on the ARPA Final Rule eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, DOA received applications for Prugrãman Salãppe' 2 from March 15, 2022, through May 22, 2022, with total payments of \$300 provided to eligible recipients; and

WHEREAS, since the launch of Prugrãman Salãppe' 2, crude oil prices have continued to soar, and continue to negatively impact our island economy; and

WHEREAS, recently, the Guam Power Authority noted that the rising fuel prices have resulted in a high Levelized Energy Adjustment Charge ("LEAC"), which is intended as a pass-through cost to consumers. Consequently, the Public Utilities Commission voted to implement rate increases for power in the coming months; and

WHEREAS, gas prices in Guam are among the highest in the nation, and our community is among those considered in the ARPA Final Rule as disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to preexisting disparities; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, it is necessary to provide additional direct aid to the most vulnerable members of our community; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, I am authorizing DOA to expand Prugrãman Salãppe' to include a one-time lump sum supplemental payment of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to eligible applicants ("Prugrãman Salãppe' 3"); and

WHEREAS, individuals who qualified for Prugrãman Salãppe' 2 will also qualify for Prugrãman Salãppe' 3, and applicants already approved under Prugrãman Salãppe' 2 will not need to complete another application to receive the \$500 payment under Prugrãman Salãppe' 3; and

WHEREAS, additionally, we are expanding the eligibility group for Prugrãman Salãppe' 3 to include individuals with higher income and proportionately higher household size, consistent with the ARPA Final Rule, utilizing the Federal Poverty Guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and I understand the uncertainties that our people face as our island recovers from the pandemic. We will continue to stand with you, and do everything within our power to help the most vulnerable members of our community get through this difficult time, and to ensure a more prosperous future for all.



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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. **EXPANSION OF THE REACTIVATED PRUGRÅMAN SALÅPPE' AYUDON I TAOTAO.** The Prugrāman Salåppe' Ayudon I Taotao, established in Executive Order No. 2020-12 ("Prugrāman Salåppe' 1") and reactivated in Executive Order No. 2022-03 ("Prugrāman Salåppe' 2"), is hereby expanded to distribute additional direct aid cash assistance to qualifying individuals and households, to alleviate the rising cost of gas and affected utilities ("Prugrāman Salåppe' 3"). The Department of Administration ("DOA") shall administer Prugrāman Salåppe' 3, with assistance from the Department of Revenue and Taxation. It shall include the following eligibility 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 ARPA Final Rules.
 - b. Applicants who received aid under Prugrāman Salåppe' 2, shall not be required to reapply to receive aid for Prugrāman Salåppe' 3 pursuant to this Executive Order, but shall receive the aid authorized herein by the method identified in their application for Prugrāman Salåppe' 2. New applicants must meet the Prugrāman Salåppe' 3's eligibility requirements. Both new and existing applicants shall be subject to verification of eligibility at DOA's discretion.
 - c. Based on these eligibility requirements, DOA shall begin accepting applications no later than **June 27, 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.
 - d. Direct cash assistance under Prugrāman Salåppe' 3 shall be distributed in a single lump sum payment of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to each eligible household. Applicants submitting applications after May 22, 2022, shall not be eligible to receive amounts previously disbursed under Prugrāman Salåppe' 2.
 - e. The DOA must provide a system of reporting to ensure accountability, which shall include a verifiable certification of income and household size.
 - f. Amounts paid under Prugrāman Salåppe' 3, as provided herein, are intended to assist individuals and families who have experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Such amounts are not income, and are not subject to garnishment or local income taxation.
 - g. Applications for Prugrāman Salåppe' 3 shall be accepted until **July 27, 2022**.



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2. **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.
3. **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 23rd day of June, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero".

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

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joshua F. Tenorio".

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

