



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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-23

RELATIVE TO RECONSTITUTING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR COORDINATING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS; ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND POVERTY PREVENTION AT THE MAYORS COUNCIL OF GUAM; AND PROVIDING SHELTER AND PROTECTION FOR UNSHELTERED HOMELESS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

WHEREAS, homelessness has become a significant challenge in Guam affecting hundreds of residents; and

WHEREAS, numerous unsheltered homeless individuals and families are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other diseases, inclement weather, and victimization; and

WHEREAS, the challenge of homelessness is complex and multi-faceted, often times associated with the presence of domestic violence or disputes, human trafficking, substance abuse disorders, mental illness, and gaps in public housing and public welfare systems, including ineligibility for housing caused by prior criminal history or history of non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, the availability of and access to safe shelters and human services are critical to the safety and wellbeing of the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the government of Guam must develop and implement effective strategies and solutions to address problems of homelessness, including preventing discharge from government care and making provisions for the availability and use of temporary housing; and

WHEREAS, such efforts require collaboration by all areas of government and coordination of resources from community, volunteer and faith-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, an effective and coordinated system approach to address the challenges of homelessness must be pursued at all levels of government and civic society.

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, and the laws of Guam, do hereby order:

- 1. GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.** The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness ("Interagency Council"), established by Executive Order 2007-20, is hereby reactivated with the charge of examining problems associated with homelessness and developing and implementing strategies and programs for a coordinated, effective response to reduce homelessness in Guam.



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- a. Section IV of Executive Order No. 2007-20 relative to the Membership of the Council is hereby repealed. There shall be seven (7) members of the Interagency Council comprised as follows:
- i. The Lieutenant Governor of Guam, who shall serve as chair;
 - ii. A Mayor designated by the President of the Mayor's Council of Guam, who shall serve as Vice-Chair;
 - iii. The Executive Director of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority;
 - iv. The President of the Guam Housing Corporation;
 - v. The Executive Manager of the Guam Regional Transit Authority;
 - vi. A member of the general public appointed by the Governor; and
 - vii. An employee or volunteer of a member organization of the Guam Homeless Coalition appointed by the Governor.
- b. In addition to the duties and responsibilities of the Council established by Executive Order 2007-20, the Interagency Council shall pursue efforts to:
- i. Establish an integrated case management program to identify, coordinate, and assist homeless individuals and families with services, emergency shelter, and housing. Such case management program should be available to government authorities and human services providers, including volunteer and faith-based organizations.
 - ii. Identify and seek to remedy gaps in services.
 - iii. Promote and support the development of immediate, transitional, and permanent housing for people with disabilities, the reentry population, veterans, distressed families, youth aging out of foster care, and the unsheltered population.
 - iv. Propose and advocate for policy changes and government services to advance the cause of reducing homelessness.
 - v. Support the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention.
 - vi. Engage the Judiciary of Guam Probation Services Division and Reentry Court to develop strategies for justice involved individuals who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.



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- vii. Address the needs of homeless foreign nationals with the Consular Corps or other government representatives, including the repatriation of stranded foreign nationals to their countries or islands of origin.

2. OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND POVERTY PREVENTION. There is hereby created the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention ("OHAPP") within the executive branch and under the administrative supervision of the Mayor's Council of Guam.

- a. The OHAPP shall be the lead government of Guam coordinating agency on homelessness assistance and poverty prevention and shall work in close coordination with the Interagency Council. The OHAPP may obtain, receive, and administer grants to support its mission and operations. The OHAPP may employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions. The OHAPP is authorized to establish a work program for its clients which may include the provision of stipends for such program's participants.
- b. The OHAPP shall serve as a referral agency and departments and agencies mandated to provide housing, public assistance, human services, healthcare, social services, education, public transportation, behavioral health, employment, workforce development, substance abuse, parole services, child protection services, adult protective services, disability services, jail and prison reentry, emergency preparedness and response, and public safety services shall cooperate and assist the OHAPP with its mission to stabilize and assist homeless individuals and families. Departments and agencies may physically and administratively assign personnel to assist the OHAPP on a permanent, temporary, or rotational basis including but not limited to eligibility specialists, caseworkers, social workers, and housing staff.
- c. Original documentation to establish proof of residency required to obtain a Guam Identification Card for Homeless Individuals and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth pursuant to Public Law 35-32 and Section 57107 of Chapter 57 of Title 10 Guam Code Annotated from the Department of Revenue and Taxation may be issued by the OHAPP.
- d. The OHAPP shall establish a Family Reunification Program to identify family members both on Guam and abroad for reunification of the homeless population with their families, to coordinate the transfer of services, and to facilitate travel if necessary, for the purposes of obtaining medical care not available in Guam or for humanitarian purposes.
- e. The Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services shall prioritize and consider applications and requests made by the OHAPP for individuals seeking eligibility to receive mileage for off-island medical care pursuant to Section 2311(e) of Chapter 23 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated.



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- f. The Office of Veterans Affairs of the Government of Guam shall actively identify and engage homeless veterans for the purpose of securing housing and public assistance benefits, including homeless veterans housing vouchers. Such efforts shall be coordinated the OHAPP and GHURA.

3. SHELTER AND PROTECTION OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

- a. The government of Guam, in coordination with the Department of Public Health and Social Services as the Public Health Authority, shall work to make shelter and protection from COVID-19 available for unsheltered homeless individuals and families for the duration of the public health emergency.
- b. The government of Guam, through the work of the Interagency Council and OHAPP, shall endeavor to establish a shelter, transitional housing, and paths for permanent housing for homeless individuals and families once the current public health emergency has concluded.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam, this **30th** day of **June 2020**.



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

Attested by:

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