

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 to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

January 24, 2025

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR.

Speaker, I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-01

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-01

**RELATIVE TO CREATING THE DIVISION OF HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND
POVERTY PREVENTION WITHIN THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES.**

Senseramente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Moots".

JEFFREY A. MOOTS
Legal Counsel

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2025-01

CC via email: The Hon. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam
The Hon. Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
The Hon. Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of Guam
Compiler of Law
Central Files
Cabinet Members



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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-01

**RELATIVE TO CREATING THE DIVISION OF HOMELESSNESS
ASSISTANCE AND POVERTY PREVENTION WITHIN THE GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, Executive Orders No. 2020-23 and 2020-37 established the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (OHAPP), and modified its responsibilities, respectively; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is a decades-long issue in Guam. Prior to OHAPP's establishment, no dedicated government of Guam agency existed to directly address the determinants of poverty and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, while the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) administers benefits and assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, it did not previously address homelessness and its causes directly; and

WHEREAS, poverty and homelessness are major social determinants of health and often lead to poor health outcomes due to elevated risks, barriers to access, and limited social support; and

WHEREAS, since 2020, OHAPP has created and fostered crucial connections between stakeholders working toward eliminating homelessness in Guam, including the Guam Homeless Coalition (GHC) and the Mayors' Council of Guam; and

WHEREAS, OHAPP's efforts have yielded strong results, and the Guam Legislature, in Public Law No. 20-159, recognized the importance of homelessness prevention, and directed DPHSS to coordinate resources for breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty in Guam, and to advocate for the homeless population; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2023 GHC Point in Time count, more than a thousand homeless individuals presently live in Guam, in shelters, on the street, and in substandard housing. Many families and individuals residing on CHamoru Land Trust properties meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of being homeless because their homes were constructed without infrastructure or do not meet building code standards; and



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HAGATNA, GUAM 96932
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WHEREAS, eliminating homelessness in Guam requires the investment of time and resources from both the executive and legislative branches of the government of Guam working in concert with federal government and non-profit partners; and

WHEREAS, the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration is committed to increasing our island's inventory of affordable housing and shelter spaces for low-income and vulnerable populations facing homelessness. To this end, we have purchased and are refurbishing property that will serve as a "bed at night" shelter, with additional daytime services. Additionally, we are converting an 18-unit apartment complex into transitional housing for low-income or homeless families; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of our Administration's efforts establishing government services to address challenges facing our homeless population, and to promote continuity in the provision of these services, it is timely and appropriate to transition these services into a permanent division within the DPHSS, to ensure consistent dedication of necessary personnel and resources to these important issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, 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. ESTABLISHING THE DIVISION OF HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND POVERTY PREVENTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

There is hereby established the Division of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (DHAPP) within the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). DHAPP shall operate pursuant to the following requirements:

- a. **PURPOSE AND MISSION.** DHAPP shall develop, coordinate, and implement comprehensive strategies to reduce homelessness and mitigate its adverse impacts on Guam's population. DHAPP shall be the lead government of Guam office on all programs involving homelessness assistance and poverty prevention. The mission of DHAPP is to develop programs designed to decrease homelessness and poverty in Guam by providing services with compassion for those members of our community that seek such services, connecting them to resources and helping them cultivate life skills for resilience against poverty. Further, DHAPP will assist



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

individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty to access services for housing, healthcare, mental health services, substance use treatment, domestic violence, and other necessary resources for greater opportunities and gainful living, to break the cycle of poverty and attain permanent housing.

b. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** DHAPP shall be responsible for the following duties:

- i. Addressing homelessness as a social determinant of health;
- ii. Coordinating and developing emergency, transitional, and permanent housing programs;
- iii. Poverty prevention, education, and outreach;
- iv. Researching and collecting data on the causes of homelessness on Guam and the impact homelessness has on the health of the individual and on public health; and
- v. Collaborating with non-governmental services providers to assist the homeless;
- vi. Assisting with and enabling the relocation of homeless individuals off-island to promote housing stability, medical care, family reunification, and improvements to quality of life;
- vii. Administering local and federal food distribution activities, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); responsibility previously delegated to OHAPP for administration of TEFAP shall be assumed by DHAPP; and
- viii. Researching existing homeless assistance programs to assist in determining the most effective resource allocation, and advocate for funding for appropriate program expansion and development.

c. **STRUCTURE OF DHAPP.** All current OHAPP staff shall be transferred to DHAPP in their current positions and pay grade.

d. **FUNDING AND RESOURCES.** DPHSS shall support the establishment and operation of DHAPP under its operations. This budget will include resources for outreach, housing programs, healthcare integration, and data collection efforts. Further funding may be requested based on DHAPP's evolving needs.



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HAGATNA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

Additionally, DHAPP may obtain, receive, and administer grants to support its mission and operations to expand its reach and efficacy in addressing homelessness as a public health crisis. All grants awarded to OHAPP shall be transferred to DHAPP, and DHAPP shall assume all OHAPP responsibilities and comply with all terms and conditions under such grants.

e. **IMPLEMENTATION.** DHAPP shall be formally established within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Executive Order.

2. **RESCISSION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-23, SECTION 2.** Section 2 of Executive Order No. 2020-23, which establishes OHAPP, and Executive Order 2020-37 shall be rescinded within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Executive Order, or after DHAPP is formally established within the DPHSS, whichever occurs first.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 24th day of January, 2025.

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

Attested by:

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

