

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery
and E-mail to: speaker@guamlegislature.org

December 1, 2023

THE HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE

Speaker

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-15

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker:

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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-15

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

Thank you.

Senseramente,

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

JEFFREY A. MOOTS
Legal Counsel

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2023-15

cc via email: *Maga'hågan Guåhan*
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Hon. Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of Guam
Compiler of Law
Central Files
Cabinet Members



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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-15

**RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS'
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT**

WHEREAS, while our island's economy has experienced steady recovery in recent years from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain sectors of our economy continue to struggle, including our tourism industry, and related businesses; and

WHEREAS, Typhoon Mawar further slowed our tourism industry's economic recovery from the pandemic, which in turn has affected the recovery of other related small business; and

WHEREAS, On March 27, 2020, President Donald J. Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) into law, providing Guam with initial emergency federal funding to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") into law, providing Guam with additional emergency federal funding to combat the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funding may be used to provide small businesses with grants to mitigate financial hardship, such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, our Administration, through the coordinated efforts of various agencies including the Guam Economic Development Authority ("GEDA"), has established impactful small business grant and loan programs to mitigate against the negative economic impact of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these programs include the Guam Small Business Pandemic Assistance Grant Program (established in Executive Order ("EO") No. 2020-18), the Healthcare System Stabilization Grant Program (established in EO No. 2020-35), the Guam Small Business Rent Assistance Grant Program (established in EO No. 2020-40), the Guam Small Business Pandemic Assistance Grant Program 2021 (established in EO No. 2021-22), and the Local Employers Assistance Program ("LEAP") (established in EO No. 2021-25); and

WHEREAS, these programs have provided over One Hundred and Forty-Four Million dollars in essential financial support to a broad spectrum of local businesses, empowering these businesses to meet their most critical financial obligations such as payroll, rent, and utilities, which, in turn, enabled these businesses to support their employees and our broader island workforce through the worst of the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, and thereafter; and



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WHEREAS, in my 2023 State of the Island Address, I pledged to support efforts of the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate funds towards a new round of direct small business assistance; and

WHEREAS, as promised, on May 22, 2023 I signed into law Public Law No. 37-15, which appropriated up to Fifteen Million dollars (\$15,000,000) in assistance for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the substantial infusion of grant funding we have made in our local economy, we recognize that we must do more to stabilize our businesses, and bolster their recovery from the pandemic, to ensure the financial security of our island and our people; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore both timely and appropriate that our Administration further its efforts to stabilize our economy by authorizing an additional round of financial assistance to eligible Guam small businesses, to support our economic recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and I recognize the challenges facing our business community and commend their efforts in the extended recovery process. We continue to stand in support of our local businesses, and hope that this additional financial support will help shoulder their burden, and help carry our economy and our community forward.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT ("LEAP II"). I hereby order the establishment of LEAP II to provide direct financial assistance to local small businesses to aid in economic recovery and direct as follows:

A. A total of Five Million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated from ARPA funding to the Department of Administration for LEAP II.

B. A total of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) shall be allocated from ARPA funding to the GEDA as an Administrative Fee in compensation for the implementation and processing of the LEAP II.

C. The GEDA shall administer the program. Its duties shall include:

i. Developing the criteria for the award of grants under LEAP II, ensuring that LEAP II is open to a broad spectrum of businesses that have experienced severe levels of business interruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;



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- ii. Developing the application for the LEAP II program;
 - iii. Receiving and reviewing the applications to determine the eligible applicants and submitting payment requests to the Department of Administration ("DOA") for disbursement to qualifying businesses; and
 - iv. Instituting a system of reporting and record retention, to include auditable certification to ensure accountability.
- D. The GEDA shall allow for a reasonable application period. Grant awards under LEAP II shall be made until such time that the budget allocated is exhausted, but no later than ninety (90) days after the GEDA closes the application period.
- E. Prior to the opening of the application period, the GEDA shall conduct outreach efforts to properly inform the public of LEAP II availability and requirements.
- F. The DOA shall be responsible for issuing all grant award payments under LEAP II, and shall maintain proper records of all such payments.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 30th day of November, 2023.

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 blue ink, reading "Joshua F. Tenorio".

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

