Informational Briefing/Hearing/ Oversight Hearing / Roundtable Hearing

STANDING COMMITTEE / SENATOR	HEARING	COMMITTEE REPORT	HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard.	Oversight Hearing	Digital Committee Report on the Oversight Hearing on the OCD-OHS FEMA.	6/15/26 8:30 a.m.	8/31/26	

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

August 18, 2026

The Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on the Oversight Hearing regarding the Office of Civil Defense-Office of Homeland Security (OCD-OHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report relative to the Office of Civil Defense-Office of Homeland Security (OCD-OHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Oversight Hearing which was conducted by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) on June 15, 2026 at 8:30 a.m..

Please contact our office if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman
Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
August 18, 2026 10:34 a.m.
Mario Crisostomo

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411 • email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature | I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

COMMITTEE REPORT

Oversight Hearing

Office of Civil Defense-Office of Homeland Security (OCD-OHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411 • email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

First Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

6 messages

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 8:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Bcc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatortelot@gmail.com" <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov" <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Joann Camacho <joann.camacho@guamlegislature.gov>, Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>, Legislative Counsel <legislativecounsel@guamlegislature.gov>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, news@guampdn.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofguam.com>, publisher@pacificislandtimes.com, reporters@postguam.com, newsdirector@kuam.com, reporters@kuam.com, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, news@kanditnews.com, raygibsonradio@gmail.com, context@pasquines.us, guamwebsites@gmail.com, managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com, editor@glimpsesofguam.com, reporter2@glimpsesofguam.com, kyle@power98.com, patti@thewave105.com, dice@power98.com, reese@power98.com, marc@postguam.com, dick.sheffield@abc.com, ready@guamwebz.com, thomas.manglona@marianaspress.com, local@bayareanewsgroup.com, local@bakersfield.com, runner@csub.edu, jimk@ebpublishing.com, tritonscalluog@gmail.com, nestor@postguam.com, Jenna Blas <jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov>

June 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: **First Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.**

Buenas yan Håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard will conduct an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* based on the following agenda:

- **Corrective Action Plan Update** - Office of Civil Defense and Office of Homeland Security FEMA Grants covered by the 2023 Premier Group Audit, Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-07 (June 2024), and Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-12 (December 2024).

Watch Live
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however, members of the public are welcome to attend.

Special Accommodations
Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to Ms. Diana Topasna at the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411, 120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, *Hagåtña,* Guam 96910, or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

6.4.26 First Notice of 6.15.26 Oversight Hearing - FEMA Grants.pdf
55K

Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 8:06 AM
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.

Clerks Office
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña,* Guam 96910
Voice: (671) 472-3465/3460 Fax: (671) 472-3524
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Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 8:00 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov <phnotice@guamlegislature.gov>
Subject: First Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 8:19 AM
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Oversight has been posted on the calendar.
[Quoted text hidden]
--

Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

1-671-969-3514
sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

June 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: **First Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.**

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

First Notice of Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

PRINT

First Notice of Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Posted on:** 06/04/2026 08:00 AM
- **Posted by:** Diana Topasna
- **Public Hearing Date:** 06/15/2026 08:30 AM
- **Department(s):** **GUAM LEGISLATURE(/notices?department_id=92)**
- **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO(/notices?division_id=294)
- **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING(/notices?topic_id=74)
- **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING(/notices?type_id=7)
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June 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: **<u>First Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.</u>**

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> **Corrective Action Plan Update** - Office of Civil Defense and Office of Homeland Security FEMA Grants covered by the 2023 Premier Group Audit, Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-07 (June 2024), and Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-12 (December 2024).

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

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THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

2 messages

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Jun 10, 2026 at 8:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Bcc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatortelot@gmail.com" <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov" <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Joann Camacho <joann.camacho@guamlegislature.gov>, Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>, Legislative Counsel <legislativecounsel@guamlegislature.gov>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, news@guampdn.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofguam.com>, publisher@pacificislandtimes.com, reporters@postguam.com, newsdirector@kuam.com, reporters@kuam.com, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, news@kanditnews.com, raygibsonradio@gmail.com, context@pasquines.us, guamwebsites@gmail.com, managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com, editor@glimpsesofguam.com, reporter2@glimpsesofguam.com, patti@thewave105.com, dice@power98.com, marc@postguam.com, dick.sheffield@abc.com, ready@guamwebz.com, thomas.manglona@marianaspress.com, local@bayareanewsgroup.com, local@bakersfield.com, runner@csub.edu, jimk@ebpublishing.com, tritonscalluog@gmail.com

June 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: **Second Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.**

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

6.10.26 Second Notice of 6.15.26 Oversight Hearing - FEMA Grants.pdf
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Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Jun 10, 2026 at 8:09 AM
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.

Clerks Office
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña,* Guam 96910
Voice: (671) 472-3465/3460 Fax: (671) 472-3524
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From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 8:00 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov <phnotice@guamlegislature.gov>
Subject: Second Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

[Quoted text hidden]

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

June 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: **Second Notice of Oversight Hearing – Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.**

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411 • email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Second Notice of Oversight Hearing - Monday, June 15, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

PRINT

Second Notice of Oversight Hearing - Monday, June 15, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Posted on:** 06/10/2026 08:00 AM
- **Posted by:** Diana Topasna
- **Public Hearing Date:** 06/15/2026 08:30 AM
- **Department(s):** **GUAM LEGISLATURE(/notices?department_id=92)**
- **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO(/notices?division_id=294)
- **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING(/notices?topic_id=74)
- **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING(/notices?type_id=7)
- **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC(/notices?public=1)
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June 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**

From: **Senator Shawn Gumataotao**
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

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OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
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06/16/2026	TUE		KUAM TV **PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 15, 2026** FIRST NOTICE - AIR DATE: 06/04/26 1x :15 SECOND AD-TV8 TIME: 08:20AM 1x :15 SECOND AD-TV11 (KUAM MATCH) TIME: 11:50AM **PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 15, 2026** SECOND NOTICE - AIR DATE: 06/10/26 1x :15 SECOND AD-TV8 TIME: 08:00AM 1x :15 SECOND AD-TV11 (KUAM MATCH) TIME: 1:58PM			$230.00

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Total Due			**$230.00**

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Oversight Hearing
Office of Civil Defense - Office of Homeland Security
FEMA Grants
Monday, June 15, 2026 • 8:30 a.m.
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Chairman's Opening Statement

III. **Corrective Action Plan Update** - Office of Civil Defense and Office of Homeland Security FEMA Grants covered by the 2023 Premier Group Audit, Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-07 (June 2024), and Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-12 (December 2024)

IV. Question & Answer Section

V. Chairman's Closing Statement

VI. Adjournment

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411 • email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Office of Senator
SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman
Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

OVERSIGHT HEARING

Office of Civil Defense - Office of Homeland Security
FEMA Grants

Monday, June 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	Please indicate with √		Contact Number	Email Address
		Written	Oral		
Joe Cabona	Homeland		√	[redacted]	joseph.cabona@ghs.guam.gov
Esther Aguigui	OHS/OCD	✓	✓		esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov
Lucia Perez	"				lucia.perez@ghs.guam.gov
Jack Hattig III	GRD				jack.hattig@ghs.guam.gov
Logan Reyes	GHS/OCD				logan.reyes@guam.gov

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | ***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan***

June 4, 2026

Mr. Jon Junior Calvo
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Sent via: *jon.calvo@guam.gov*

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Chief of Staff Calvo,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

- **Corrective Action Plan Update** - Office of Civil Defense and Office of Homeland Security FEMA Grants covered by the 2023 Premier Group Audit, Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-07 (June 2024), and Office of Public Accountability Report No. 24-12 (December 2024).

The Committee will also be inviting additional Government of Guam departments to participate in the Oversight Hearing and appreciates in advance your assistance in working with these organizations to present clear, accurate, and timely information regarding the above-mentioned topic. The organizations include the Office of Civil Defense, Office of Homeland Security, Guam Recovery Office, Bureau of Budget and Management Research, Department of Administration, and Office of Public Accountability.

If a PowerPoint presentation will be provided during the Oversight Hearing, please submit the file(s) to Senator Gumataotao's Office via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov and the Guam Legislature MIS Department at mis@guamlegislature.gov. The Guam Legislature **requires digital media files to be submitted no later than twenty-four (24) hours** prior to the scheduled engagement. Please refer to the attached memorandum from the Guam Legislature Executive Director for additional guidance.

Please contact my office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email should you have any questions.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Attachments: Notice of 6.15.26 Oversight Hearing
Guam Legislature Digital Media Policy (5.1.26)

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

June 4, 2026

Mr. Edward M. Birn
Director
Department of Administration
Sent via edward.birn@doa.guam.gov

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Director Birn,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

June 4, 2026

Mr. Joseph Cabana
Administrator
Guam Recovery Office
Sent via: *joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov*

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Administrator Cabana,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
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Guam Legislature Digital Media Policy (5.1.26)

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

June 4, 2026

Mr. Lester Carlson, Jr.
Director
Bureau of Budget and Management Research
Sent via lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Director Carlson,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Attachments: Notice of 6.15.26 Oversight Hearing
Guam Legislature Digital Media Policy (5.1.26)

June 4, 2026

Ms. Esther Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor
Office of Homeland Security
Sent via: *esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov*

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai HSA Aguigui,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | ***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan***

June 4, 2026

Ms. Esther Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor, Office of Homeland Security *and*
Acting Administrator, Office of Civil Defense
Sent via: *esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov*

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Acting Administrator Aguigui,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.**, in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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Please contact Senator Gumataotao's Office at (671) 647-14109/1411 or via email should you have any questions.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Attachments: Notice of 6.15.26 Oversight Hearing
Guam Legislature Digital Media Policy (5.1.26)

OFFICE OF SENATOR

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | ***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan***

June 4, 2026

The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Public Auditor
Office of Public Accountability
Sent via *bjcruz@guamopa.com*

Subject: Oversight Hearing Regarding OCD-OHS FEMA Grants

Håfa adai Public Auditor Cruz,

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) has scheduled an Oversight Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.,** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* regarding the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) FEMA grants. The Committee respectfully requests your attendance and participation in the Oversight Hearing and to provide a presentation based on the following agenda:

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Please contact my office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email should you have any questions.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY / OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE
Inasiguran I Tano' Guahan / Ufisinan Difensia Sibet
221-B Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 475-9600 / Fax: (671) 477-3727
Website: www.ghs.guam.gov

Esther J. C. Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor

15 June 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: Oral Testimony – Oversight Hearing to Focus on Corrective Actions Linked to Federal and Local Audits, Safeguarding Emergency Grants

Buenas yan Håfa adai, Chairman Gumataotao and members of the Committee. I am Esther J. C. Aguigui, the Guam Homeland Security Advisor, and I am here today to provide an update on our Corrective Action Plan responding to 2023 Premier Group Audit.

I want to begin with the distinction that matters most, because the record contains two federal actions that are easily confused. In January, FEMA approved our Corrective Action Plan. In May, FEMA placed our grants on restricted drawdown. These are not contradictory. The first is a judgment that our plan is sound. The second is a control mechanism that keeps federal funds flowing while we prove that soundness over time. One speaks to our plan; the other speaks to a clock.

That clock is the part I ask you to understand clearly. To lift the restriction, FEMA requires three consecutive years of clean monitoring and a sustained low error rate across multiple testing cycles. By federal design, those conditions cannot be met in months, no matter how fast or how well we perform. So, the relevant question this morning is not whether the restriction is lifted. It is whether the corrective actions within our control are being done. They are.

Let me be concrete. Our timekeeping procedures and pay-period audits have been running since 2023. Our grants-management staff completed federal Grants Management course (LD-705) certification last August. Quarterly internal audits across transactions, procurement, travel, and disbursements have been live since the middle of last year. And in December, the Office of the Chief of Staff (not my office alone) stood up a Grant Monitoring Committee, placing accountability above the agency that drew the original findings. We have named Authorizing Officials and Certifying Officers, closing the certification gap the audit identified.

None of this happened in isolation. The plan FEMA approved was built line-by-line *with* FEMA; their specialists offered dozens of specific recommendations, and our integrated matrix documents our response to each. When we needed more time, FEMA granted a ninety-day extension and reaffirmed its technical assistance. That is not the posture of a regulator that has given up on us. It is the posture of a partner rebuilding trust alongside us.

I would offer the Committee this. The audit found real weaknesses, and we have not minimized a single one. But the honest measure of this government is not the existence of findings — it is what we have done since. The documentation is complete, the controls are operating, and the federal relationship is active and collaborative. We welcome your oversight, because it holds us to exactly the standard our island deserves.

May Godcontinue to protect our island, guide our work, and bless our community.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'. I welcome your questions.

Respectfully and Humbly Submitted,

Esther J. C. Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor

OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | ***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan***

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Office of the Governor
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Sent via electronic mail to governor@guam.gov

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero:

Hafa Adai! Pursuant to the Guam Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (5 GCA §§ 10101 et seq.), I hereby request copies of all documents, records, correspondence, memoranda, emails, reports, notices, and any other materials in the possession of the Office of the Governor of Guam or any other Government of Guam agency related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) placing a Restrictive Drawdown Status on all grants awarded to the U.S. Territory of Guam.

This request includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any notifications or determinations from FEMA imposing the restrictive drawdown status;
2. Internal communications, analyses, corrective action plans, or correspondence with FEMA regarding the status;
3. Records of any financial, audit, compliance, or performance issues that led to the restriction;
4. Documentation of efforts to lift or modify the status; and
5. Any related records from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, Guam Office of Homeland Security-Guam Office of Civil Defense, or other relevant agencies.

Please provide the records in electronic format where possible. I request a response within the timeframe required by law.

If any portion of this request is denied, please provide a written explanation citing the specific exemption under the Sunshine Act. Please submit the requested information via email to *office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.*

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Si Yu'os ma'åse',

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Senator, 38th Guam Legislature
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

May 21, 2026

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Senator, 38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Suite 103
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411
Email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Gumataotao,

Pursuant to 5 GCA § 10103(e)(2), your request for documents received on Friday, May 15, 2026, is hereby extended for ten (10) calendar days due to the request requiring the Office of the Governor to search, collect and properly examine more than ten (10) separate and distinct records.

Any responsive documents, if identified, will be made available to you no later than May 31, 2026.

Senseramente,

Andrea Johnson

ANDREA YU. JOHNSON
Acting FOIA Officer

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

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

May 29, 2026

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Senator, 38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Suite 103
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411
Email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Gumataotao,

This letter responds to your Friday, May 15, 2026 request submitted under the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (5 GCA §10101 *et seq*.), seeking records and associated communications or materials related to FEMA placing a Restrictive Drawdown Status on grants.

The Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor searched its records in accordance with 5 GCA §10101 *et seq*. and have identified documents responsive to your request. These documents are enclosed with this letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at andrea.johnson@guam.gov.

Senseramente,

Andrea Johnson

ANDREA YU JOHNSON
Acting FOIA Officer

OMB Number:	1660-0076
Expiration Date:	11/30/2026
Field Name	**Field Description**
Region	Populate the Region your State/Tribe/Territory is affiliated to.
State Code	Enter your State. NOTE: The standard is to write out the name of the State. Do not use the abbreviation.
Disaster Number	This field should be pre-populated but in the event it is not: Populate or confirm the disaster number that is associated with open projects for this reporting period.
Application ID	This field should be pre-populated but in the event it is not: Populate or confirm that the Application ID associated with this project is accurate.
Project Number	This field should be pre-populated but in the event it is not: Populate or confirm that the FEMA project number associated with this project is accurate.
Fiscal Year	This field should be pre-populated but in the event it is not: Populate or confirm the fiscal year for this reporting period.
Quarter Number	This field should be pre-populated but in the event it is not: Populate or confirm the quarter number for this reporting period.
Sub-Recipient Name	Enter the name of the sub-recipient that was awarded federal funds.
Project Title	Enter the name of the project that was awarded.
Approved POP Completion Date	Enter the approved, original date the project is scheduled to be completed.
POP Time Extension	Has the POP been extended beyond the approved, initial POP? If yes, complete the 'POP Time Extension Date' field in the next column.
POP Time Extension Date	Enter the new, approved date of the POP.
Cost Code	From the drop down menu, select whether the project's costs are: Unchanged, Overrun, Underrun.
Status	**On Schedule:**All work within the sub-award should align with the Scope of Work (SOW), budget and milestones.

Work Completed:

100% work completion is based on sub-recipient’s report to the recipient, the date on which all work associated with the approved Scope of Work is complete, including meeting all compliance requirements (e.g., EHP, code and permit certifications, obtain insurance) and section 406 mitigation, if applicable. This does not include associated grant administrative activities (e.g., submitting payments of claims or certifications to the recipient for project closeout, financial reconciliation, or recipient site inspections).

If a subsequent recipient site visit does not verify work was actually completed in compliance with the terms of the award, status is not 100 percent. On its next progress or performance report, the recipient should correct the report of work completion. FEMA may choose to treat the work as still ongoing under the grant award, in which case closeout timeframes will essentially reset on the corrected date of work completion, as reported by the recipient. Alternatively, the recipient or FEMA may determine that any non-compliance with the approved scope of work identified during closeout result in disallowed costs under the grant award.

For planning-related activities under HMGP, 100 percent work completion is also when all work within the approved scope of work (SOW) is complete.

For HMA mitigation planning grants, 100 percent work completion is on the date FEMA issues the approval letter to the sub-recipient. Program staff should make an effort not to delay closeout in cases where some jurisdictions are not actively pursuing plan adoption and approval under a multijurisdictional plan.

The overall project closeout process begins upon completion of the project work. The recipient must enter in its progress or performance report the date on which the project is 100 percent complete. The work completion date also triggers the respective 90-day project closeout reporting time frames for the sub-recipient and recipient.

Reporting Completed:

This phase is when all financials have been reconciled and the sub-award is ready for closeout.

Closed:

A project will be noted as closed when all eligible project costs are reconciled, final payment is made, the project is closed in NEMIS and FEMA concurs with the grantee's closeout request. NOTE: Until the project is officially closed in NEMIS, a QPR will be required even if a project is 100% work complete.

Suspended:
A suspended sub-award is a temporary hold preventing further expenditure of funds.

Delayed:
Any sub-award that has been delayed due to things beyond your control (i.e. Weather, Procurement, Design Error, Cost Overrun, etc.)

Cancelled:
A cancelled sub-award means the end of the Federal award prior to the planned end of the Period Of Performance (POP). Some reasons a sub-award might be cancelled:
High budget costs
Contractors cannot meet milestones; Unrealistic timeframes
Lack of material, tools, staff

Percentage Work Complete	You are measuring the estimated percentage between where the project currently is in relation to the Scope of Work. 100 percent work completion is, based on sub-recipient's report to the recipient, the date on which all work associated with the approved Scope of Work is complete, including meeting all compliance requirements (e.g., EHP, code and permit certifications, obtain insurance) and section 406 mitigation, if applicable. This does not include associated grant administrative activities (e.g., submitting payments of claims or certifications to the recipient for project closeout, financial reconciliation, or recipient site inspections). If a subsequent recipient site visit does not verify work was actually completed in compliance with the terms of the award, status is not 100 percent. On its next progress or performance report, the recipient should correct the report of work completion. FEMA may choose to treat the work as still ongoing under the grant award, in which case closeout timeframes will essentially reset on the corrected date of work completion, as reported by the recipient. Alternatively, the recipient or FEMA may determine that any non-compliance with the approved scope of work identified during closeout result in disallowed costs under the grant award. For planning-related activities under HMGP, 100 percent work completion is also when all work within the approved scope of work (SOW) is complete. For HMA mitigation planning grants, 100 percent work completion is on the date FEMA issues the approval letter to the sub-recipient. Program staff should make an effort not to delay closeout in cases where some jurisdictions are not actively pursuing plan adoption and approval under a multijurisdictional plan. *<u>NOTE</u>* : Until the project is officially closed in NEMIS, a QPR will be required even if a project is 100% work complete.
Actual Project Completion Date	The overall project closeout process begins upon completion of the project work. The recipient must enter in its progress or performance report the date on which the project is 100 percent complete. **The work completion date also triggers the respective 90-day project closeout re**porting time frames for the sub-recipient and recipient.
Total Properties	**For Acquisition and Relocation projects ONLY:** Indicate how many properties were acquired and / or relocated during the current reporting period.
Property ID List	Indicate the Property ID number(s) associated with the address in NEMIS that has been acquired and / or relocated. 1. In NEMIS, go to the Property Site Inventory tab. 2. Locate the address that has been acquired and / or relocated during the current reporting period. 3. Enter the Property ID number(s) associated with that address.
Total Recipient Drawdown	The Federal obligations the recipient has drawn down from Smartlink.
Most Recent Drawdown Date	Enter the date of the most recent draw down by the recipient.
Federal Funds Dispersed	Enter the total Federal funds provided to the sub-recipient.
Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date	Current funding paid to the vendors by the sub-recipient.
Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee	Enter the date the final amount of funding was given by the recipient to the sub-recipient.

Comments	Add any comments relevant to the project. Example: Reason 100% Complete and Still Open Pending Closeout Request from Recipient Pending FEMA Closeout Action
If in Closeout, where does it reside?	The recipient must report on its progress or performance report to FEMA the date on which the sub-recipient completed the work approved in the scope of work in compliance with the terms of the award, as reported by the sub-recipient. (If subsequent review and inspection does not verify it, the recipient must correct the entry in its next progress or performance report.) For disaster assistance: -Report on its quarterly financial report (SF-425) the date on which the sub-recipient completes its last work for the program under the declaration. This triggers timeframes under section 705 of the Stafford Act for FEMA to notify the recipient of any disallowed costs the recipient may owe back to FEMA under the sub-recipient's sub-awards for that declaration. -Certify that the project was in compliance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; -Review documentation of the sub-recipient's expended costs and reconcile sub-recipient expenditures; -Within 180 days of the sub-recipient's completion of work, certify that all work is completed as approved in the sub-award or PW's SOW and in compliance with the terms of the award, including applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; -Conduct or request a Final Inspection (including a possible site inspection or visit) and make a certification and provide documentation to support that the project was completed in compliance with environmental conditions, required permits, and applicable building codes;367 -Request closure of PWs/projects and/or comply with the 90-day liquidation period deadline; -Certify that all eligible funds have been provided to the sub-recipient; -Request closure of sub-recipients and/or comply with automatic closure of sub-recipient once all projects are closed for the program; -Reconcile any applicable administrative costs; -Submit any appeals to FEMA on behalf of the sub-recipient; and -Resolve any negative audit findings with the sub-recipient. FEMA designated staff: -When FEMA receives payment of claims certifications / closeout requests, the designated staff verifies necessary information and either requests additional information or approves the closeout request. Upon verifying closeout, FEMA sends the recipient a final closeout letter confirming the final expenditures for the project. -Close the sub-recipient account in the grants management system.
Reasons for Closeout Deficiency	In accordance with the 2019 Fraud Risk Profile Findings provided by the FEMA Fraud Investigation and Inspection Division (FIID), please provide further clarification on any sub-grant that remains deficient in the closeout process. Please select one of the following reasons: Staffing (inadequate staffing for completing closeout requirements) Recipient’s failure to request timely closeout Non-compliance with grant requirements Failure to track and manage grant timelines Unable to reconcile State Management Cost Failure to enforce existing requirements Appeals Establishing Debt Collection Other If “Other” is selected, please provide a short description of the reason for closeout deficiency in the next column.

Region	State Code	Disaster Number	Application ID	Project Number	Fiscal Year	Quarter Number	Sub-Recipient Name	Project Title	Approved POP Completion Date	POP Time Extension	POP Time Extension Date	Cost Code	Status
9	Guam	4224			2025	1							Work Completed**

Percentage Work Complete	Actual Project Completion Date	Total Properties	Property ID list	Total Recipient Drawdown	Most Recent Drawdown Date	Federal Funds Disbursed	Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date	Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee

Comments	If in Closeout, where does it reside?	Select the reason for closeout deficiency	Reasons for Closeout Deficiency-Other
12/30/2024 - Project Completed			

Region	State Code	Disaster Number	Application ID	Project Number	Fiscal Year	Quarter Number	Sub-Recipient Name	Project Title	Approved POP Completion Date	POP Time Extension	POP Time Extension Date
9	Guam	4398	1	0001	2025	1	PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM	PAG, Warehouse I, Hardening Project	11/04/2022	Yes	06/30/2024
9	Guam	4398	2	0002	2025	1	PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM	PAG, Wharf Fendering System, Hardening	05/08/2023	Yes	05/15/2025
9	Guam	4398	4	0003	2025	1	Statewide	GHS-OCD, 5% HazMit, Outreach and Community Education Campaign	01/27/2023	No	
9	Guam	4398	5	0004	2025	1	Statewide	GHS-OCD, 7% Hazards Data and Risk Analysis, 2019 Guam HM Plan Update	07/13/2023	No	
9	Guam	4398	3	0005	2025	1	Statewide	GHS-OCD, State Management Cost	10/01/2022	Yes	11/03/2025

Cost Code	Status	Percentage Work Complete	Actual Project Completion Date	Total Properties	Property ID list	Total Recipient Drawdown	Most Recent Drawdown Date	Federal Funds Disbursed	Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date
Cost Overrun	Work Completed**	100	3/1/2024	0	0	$385,875.00	07/12/2024	$385,875.00	$549,777.53
Cost Underrun	Delayed	60		0	0	$151,949.38	07/08/2024	$151,949.38	$202,599.17
Cost Unchanged	Work Completed**	100	1/27/2023	0	0	$44,650.00	08/08/2023	$44,650.00	$44,650.00
Cost Unchanged	Work Completed**	100	7/13/2023	0	0	$66,909.18	09/15/2023	$66,909.18	$66,909.18
Cost Unchanged	On Schedule	95		0	0	$155,953.81	07/18/2024	$156,102.24	$156,102.24

Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee	Comments	If in Closeout, where does it reside?	Select the reason for closeout deficiency	Reasons for Closeout Deficiency-Other
07/18/2024	12/30/2024 - Pending Closeout review.	FEMA		
	12/30/2024 - During this reporting period, on Oct. 23, 2024, PAG Planning and Engineering teams met with SHMO Amanda Blas and Geroge Toves and provided a project status and tour of the site Cabras Marine provided updated materials and shipping costs for the approved Scope of Work change, which was submitted to PAG Legal Counsel for review. PAG legal has requested for additional cost and pricing data. which should be submitted by Cagas Marine.	FEMA		
08/08/2023	9/30/2024 - Pending FEMA review of closeout request.			
09/15/2023	9/30/2024 - Pending FEMA review of closeout RFI response.	FEMA		
	12/30/2024 - Conducting account reconciliation to closeout.			

Region	State Code	Disaster Number	Application ID	Project Number	Fiscal Year	Quarter Number	Sub-Recipient Name	Project Title	Approved POP Completion Date	POP Time Extension	POP Time Extension Date	Cost Code	Status	Percentage Work Complete
9	Guam	4433	1	0001	2025	1	Statewide	State Management Cost	09/22/2022	Yes	11/07/2024	Cost Unchanged	On Schedule	20
9	Guam	4433	2	0003	2025	1	Statewide	Guam Fire Department Hardening of 6 Fire Stations and Rescue Base 2	02/02/2023	Yes	11/07/2024	Cost Overrun	Delayed	5

Actual Project Completion Date	Total Properties	Property ID list	Total Recipient Drawdown	Most Recent Drawdown Date	Federal Funds Disbursed	Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date	Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee	Comments
	0	0	$27,625.00	11/03/2023	$27,625.00	$27,625.00		12/30/2024 - Conducting account reconciliation to closeout.
	0	0	$0.00		$0.00	$0.00		12/30/2024 - Project pending awarding of purchase order

If in Closeout, where does it reside?	Select the reason for closeout deficiency	Reasons for Closeout Deficiency-Other

Region	State Code	Disaster Number	Application ID	Project Number	Fiscal Year	Quarter Number	Sub-Recipient Name	Project Title	Approved POP Completion Date	POP Time Extension	POP Time Extension Date	Cost Code	Status
9	Guam	4495	1	0001	2025	1	Statewide	State Management Costs	02/01/2026	No		Cost Unchanged	Delayed
9	Guam	4495	2	0002	2025	1	GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT	GFD Hardening of 4 Fire Stations					On Schedule

Percentage Work Complete	Actual Project Completion Date	Total Properties	Property ID list	Total Recipient Drawdown	Most Recent Drawdown Date	Federal Funds Disbursed	Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date
75		0	0	$230,543.19	08/07/2024	$230,543.19	$230,543.19
0							

Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee	Comments	If in Closeout, where does it reside?	Select the reason for closeout deficiency	Reasons for Closeout Deficiency-Other
	12/30/2024 - Reconciling accounts.			
	12/30/2024 - POP extension approved. Project monitoring in-progress.			

Region	State Code	Disaster Number	Application ID	Project Number	Fiscal Year	Quarter Number	Sub-Recipient Name	Project Title	Approved POP Completion Date	POP Time Extension	POP Time Extension Date	Cost Code	Status	Percentage Work Complete
9	Guam	4715			2025	1							On Schedule	

Actual Project Completion Date	Total Properties	Property ID list	Total Recipient Drawdown	Most Recent Drawdown Date	Federal Funds Disbursed	Sub-Recipient Expenditures To Date

Date Final Payment Made to Sub-grantee	Comments	If in Closeout, where does it reside?	Select the reason for closeout deficiency	Reasons for Closeout Deficiency-Other
	12/30/2024 - Pending award of SMC			

Gmail **Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>**

RE: Urgent: Concurrence Requested- Guam Restrictive Drawdown

1 message

Fenton, Bob <Robert.Fenton@fema.dhs.gov> Wed, May 13, 2026 at 7:56 AM
To: Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Good afternoon Jon,

Unfortunately, due to longstanding and significant concerns regarding the management of federal grant funds, I am writing to notify you that effectively immediately, all federal grants awarded by FEMA to the Government of Guam are being placed on restrictive drawdown status. This means agencies must submit documentation to their respective FEMA program offices for review and approval prior to the release of any grant funds.

We are committed to working with your government to meet the requirements mentioned in the attached letter and lift these restrictions.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please let me know. I'm in DC, but free to discuss anytime at 510-867-1615.

Thank you,

Bob

2026 Guam Restricted Drawdown Notification Letter_Signed.pdf
329K

Finding #	#	Action	Implementation	Timeline	COS	HSA	OCDA	GRO DIRECTOR	CAP	PM/QMT	PROJECT OFFICER	FINANCE AND ADMIN	LOGISTIC OFCR	BBMR	DOA	GSA	OPA	DHS/FEMA	FEMA's Comments	Agency Comments
					Leadership				Project Team Members				External Resources							
Finding 2023-01: Budget To Actual Overages	1.1	Develop and Implement Budget Monitoring Procedures	Create an SOP detailing monthly reconciliations of expenditures to budget line items, tracking variances, and outlining oversight procedures. Establish internal tracking of actual expenditures by grant funding, maintained monthly by program managers as a backup database.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	I	N/A	I	I	The timeline end date is also the deadline to submit the documentation, so please submit the SOP to FEMA by the end date. Suggest that the SOP include the role of BBMR and DOA, the employee role and title that will be monitoring the monthly expenditures, and how OHS/OCD will address budget modifications.	Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring". It includes the role of BBMR and DOA in the procedure. Monitoring monthly expenditures will be a shared responisbility between Grant Program Managers, Administrative Services Officer, Fiscal Manager, and Fiscal Oversight Team
	1.2	Integrate Budget-to-Actual Reporting	Design templates for Budget-to-Actual variances using data exported from GFMIS. Standardize templates for use in oversight meetings. Integrate these reports as a standing agenda item in oversight meetings, aligning discussions with 2 CFR 200 requirements.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	N/A	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring".
	1.3	Formalize Certification and Documentation Processes	Develop a workflow SOP requiring formal approval for all transactions. Implement a combined certification tracking system and electronic archive to document expenditure approvals and ensure accessibility for audits.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring". Refer to appointment letters for the Authorizing Officials and Certifying Officer.
	1.4	Conduct Quarterly Oversight and Internal Audits	Schedule quarterly internal audits to review budget adherence and detect deviations. Present findings and corrective action plans in oversight meetings.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	N/A	N/A	I	I	Suggest identifying and documenting which staff titles/members the corrective action plan will be presented to.	Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring_Oversight Meeting"
	1.5	Comprehensive Staff Training	Conduct annual training sessions on federal guidelines (2 CFR 200), GFMIS functionality, and reporting procedures. Archive training materials for future use.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I	Suggest identifying which staff titles/roles will be trained during these annual training sessions.	Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring_Annual Training" Completed LD-705 (Aug25) ; Pending training date for FY26
Finding 2023-02: Time Sheet	2.1	Develop Timesheet Templates and SOP for Timekeeping	**Time sheet template complete** Write a detailed SOP outlining timekeeping procedures, submission, supervisor review, and GFMIS integration.	10/1/2023	C	I	R/A	I	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	Assuming that the SOP will address compliance with federal requirements on payroll. The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping" (Oct23)
	2.2	Conduct Mandatory Training for Employees	Conduct training sessions for employees on the timesheet system, with a focus on time allocation by grant and compliance with federal requirements. Follow-up training every six months to address system issues and reinforce best practices.	10/7/2023	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping_Training" (Oct23)
	2.3	Conduct Internal Timesheet Audits	Conduct monthly internal audits of timesheets to ensure compliance with grant rules. Reconcile payroll allocations with grant agreements and escalate discrepancies to management.	Continuous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping_Internal Audits" (Aug25; conducted every pay period)
Finding 2023-03: General Ledger/Cash Disbursement/Audit Trail	3.1	Develop SOP for Expenditure Transactions	Create an SOP for all transactions recorded on the GFMIS general ledger, including segregation of duties, certification of funds, archiving supporting documents, reconciliation of accounts, and approval workflow for adjustments and corrections.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	C	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Transactions"
	3.2	Establish Internal Controls and Tracking System	Develop and implement an internal tracking system for transactions by object categories, ensuring monthly reconciliations and a complete audit trail. Designate a primary reviewer to oversee compliance and accuracy.	5/1/2025	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	I	In the audit report, recommendation 1 recommends a monthly reconciliation of cash disbursements. Clarify if this in reference to the monthly reconciliation mentioned in action 3.2 or the quarterly internal audits in 3.4. Some proposed actions are done on a monthly basis while others are on a quarterly basis. Suggest to indicate the reason why the cadence is different for certain actions.	Yes, the monthly reconciliation referenced in the audit report's Recommendation 1 is specifically addressed in Action 3.2. The action establishes an internal tracking and reconciliation process of expenditure transactions by object category every month, using data from the Guam Financial Management Information System (GFMIS). The purpose is to provide real-time oversight, identify discrepancies early, and maintain an accurate audit trail in alignment with 2 CFR 200 requirements. By contrast, Action 3.4 refers to quarterly internal audits, which are broader in scope and serve as formal compliance reviews. These audits verify whether processes—including the monthly reconciliations from Action 3.2—are functioning effectively, and whether any systemic issues or high-risk trends require corrective action. The difference in cadence is intentional: - Monthly (Action 3.2): Operational control and financial accuracy; conducted by internal staff closest to the transactions. (May25 to present) - Quarterly (Action 3.4): Strategic oversight and compliance evaluation; conducted by the Fiscal Manager and Oversight Team with leadership reporting. (May25 to present)
	3.3	Train Finance Personnel on CFR 200 Requirements	Conduct mandatory training for finance personnel on 2 CFR 200 requirements, including the SOP and approval processes. Follow-up training to address audit findings.	8/1/2025	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Transactions_Training" Completed LD-705 (Aug25); Pending training date for FY26
	3.4	Conduct Quarterly Internal Audits	Conduct quarterly internal audits of cash disbursements to verify compliance with procedures, reconcile discrepancies, and provide corrective action plans to management.	5/1/2025	C	C	R	R/A	R/A	R	R	N/A	I	I	N/A	I	I	In the audit report, recommendation 1 recommends a monthly reconciliation of cash disbursements. Clarify if this in reference to the monthly reconciliation mentioned in action 3.2 or the quarterly internal audits in 3.4. Some proposed actions are done on a monthly basis while others are on a quarterly basis. Suggest to indicate the reason why the cadence is different for certain actions.	Refer to the file "SOP_Transactions_Internal Audits: The difference in cadence is intentional: - Monthly (Action 3.2): Operational control and financial accuracy; conducted by internal staff closest to the transactions. (May25 to present) - Quarterly (Action 3.4): Strategic oversight and compliance evaluation; conducted by the Fiscal Manager and Oversight Team with leadership reporting. (May25 to present)
Finding 2023-04: Unsupported Inventory Control	4.1	SOP for Inventory Control	Develop and distribute an SOP for inventory control, integrating AssetCloud for tracking inventory (serial numbers, costs, grant sources, acquisition dates) and defining procedures for data entry and updates.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	C	C	R	R	R	N/A	C	I	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Inventory Control"
	4.2	Conduct Quarterly Physical Inventory Audits	Conduct quarterly physical inventories to ensure records match actual assets, updating AssetCloud and reconciling discrepancies. Perform a review of all inventory records to ensure data accuracy in AssetCloud, aligning with SOP requirements.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	C	C	C	R	R	N/A	I	I	I	I		Combining 4.2 and 4.3 since they seek to accomplish the same task
Finding 2023-05: Unsupported Salary Charged to the Grants	5.1	Develop Salary Allocation Methodology	Action Complete – No changes required.		C	R/A	R/A	R/A	C	C	R	N/A	I	I	N/A	N	I	Suggestion to specify which document submitted is in reference to proposed action 5.1.	Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping" The finding is addressed in tandem with Finding 2023-02. The development and implementation of Form 120, the SOP on Timekeeping, monthly internal audits, and mandatory employee training ensure all salary charges are substantiated. These actions provide the necessary documentation and review mechanisms to ensure grant-funded salaries are compliant with 2 CFR 200.
	5.2	Conduct Mandatory Payroll and Grant Compliance Training	Train employees on documenting time, allocating hours, and updating records during position or responsibility changes. Incorporate ongoing refresher training linked to audit findings.	10/7/2023	C	R	R/A	R	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping_Training"
	5.3	Monthly Compliance and Salary Expenditure Reviews	Conduct monthly reviews to verify salary allocations, ensuring compliance with grant terms. Use these reviews to inform quarterly audits.	MAY 2025 Continous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	I	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring". Monthly salary reviews are implemented through the Budget Monitoring SOP. These reviews directly inform quarterly internal audits and are presented during Oversight Meetings, ensuring alignment with Actions 5.4 and 1.1. This structure supports ongoing compliance with 2 CFR 200 and addresses Findings 2023-02 and 2023-05.
	5.4	Quarterly Internal Audits	Schedule quarterly audits to review salary allocations across all grants, incorporating findings from monthly reviews to address compliance gaps.	MAY 2025 Continous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	I	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Timekeeping_Internal Audits"
Finding 2023-06: Insufficient Procurement	6.1	Develop Procurement SOP	Update Finance and Admin SOP to align with grant requirements, covering requisition approvals, vendor payments, and GFMIS tracking.	8/1/2025	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	C	I	I	Suggestion that staff who are involved in procurement efforts and oversight register and take procurement webinars from FEMA. Suggest to have PDAT review procurements or seek procurement TA, ensure all OHS grants and financial staff attend L0705 Fundamentals of Grants Management.	Refer to the file "SOP_Procurement" Completed LD-705 (Aug25); Pending training date for FY26 Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) suggestion noted; monitoring FY26 training availability
	6.2	Conduct Training on Procurement SOP	Provide training sessions for staff on the updated Procurement SOP and GFMIS functionality. Emphasize compliance with grants and internal processes.	Aug25 training	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	I	C	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Procurement_Training" Completed LD-705 (Aug25); Pending training date for FY26

Procurement Procedures	6.3	Implement Monthly Compliance Reviews	Perform monthly reviews to verify procurement compliance with policies, ensuring proper documentation and approvals.	Aug25 Continous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Procurement" Completed LD-705 (Aug25); Pending training date for FY26 Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) suggestion noted; monitoring FY26 training availability
	6.4	Conduct Quarterly Procurement Audits	Conduct quarterly audits to review compliance with procurement policies, incorporating vendor disbarment checks (6.4b). Provide feedback and recommendations to management.	AUG2025 Continous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	C	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Procurement_Internal Audits"; Completed LD-705 (Aug25); Pending training date for FY26
Finding 2023-07: Unsupported or ineligible disbursements	7.1	Review and Update Disbursement Policies	Review and update all disbursement policies, including documentation and retention requirements (previously 7.2). Ensure policies comply with federal, state, and grant requirements and establish a seven-year archival standard.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	C	I	I	Suggestion that OHS tie documentation and retention procedure to items that were not sufficiently supported.	Refer to the file "SOP_Transaction"
	7.2	Train Staff on Disbursement Procedures	Conduct training for all staff on eligibility rules, documentation requirements, file management, and retention protocols. Address risks of non-compliance and incorporate feedback from audits.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Disbursements"
	7.3	Conduct Quarterly Audits of Disbursements	Perform internal audits to verify compliance with updated policies, documentation requirements, and eligibility rules. Use findings to refine procedures and inform training sessions.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Internal Audits"
Finding 2023-08: Undocumented Travel Expenses Charged	8.1	Develop SOP for Travel	Create and distribute an SOP outlining procedures for travel expense documentation, approval, and submission. Include instructions for using the travel request form	10/24/2024	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	C	N/A	I	I	Suggestion that the SOP state which staff members/titles are authorized and elaborate on the checks and balances to ensure compliance to travel requirements. Suggestion to tie it into staff roles and duties on the RACI Matrix.	Refer to the file "SOP_Travel";
	8.2	Train Employees on Travel Documentation	Provide training on the updated travel SOP, focusing on using the TPA form, documentation requirements, and GFMIS submission. Highlight compliance with 2 CFR 200.	10/24/2024	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Travel_Training"
	8.3	Conduct Quarterly Travel Audits	Perform quarterly audits to verify compliance with travel SOPs, focusing on proper documentation and identifying undocumented or unauthorized expenses. Use findings to refine training and processes.	Continuous	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Travel_Internal Audit"
Finding 2023-09: Inaccurate or Untimely Reporting on FFR(SF-425)	9.1	Implement a Tickler System for Deadlines	Set up a system to track FFR reporting deadlines with automated reminders sent to key personnel to ensure timely submissions. Include a mechanism for reviewing and updating the system during coordination meetings.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	Suggestion to develop an SOP for how designated staff will use the system. Suggestion to establish trainings for key personnel and create documentation log for tracking training attendance i.e.a sign in sheet.	Refer to the file "SOP_Federal Financial Reports"
	9.2	Coordinate with DOA for Timely and Accurate Submissions	Establish periodic meetings with DOA to review upcoming deadlines, address potential delays, reconcile financial data, and ensure a transparent approval process for FFR submissions.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Federal Financial Reports"
	9.3	Reconcile Financial Data Using GFMIS	Use as400 / GFMIS to reconcile grant expenditures during FFR preparation, ensuring accuracy and alignment with reporting fields. Integrate reconciliation as a key topic in periodic DOA meetings.	Continuous	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Federal Financial Reports"
Finding 2023-10: Written Policies and Procedures Non-Compliant with Current Federal Guidance	10.1	Update Finance and Administrative SOP	Review and incorporate missing federal requirements into the SOP, including documentation practices, internal controls, and audit processes. Establish a process for annual updates.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	The corrective actions identified under Finding 2023-10 are fully integrated into the updated SOPs
	10.2	Train Staff on Updated Policies	Conduct training sessions for all staff on the updated SOPs. Emphasize changes for federal compliance and practical application.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	C	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	The corrective actions identified under Finding 2023-10 are fully integrated into the updated SOPs
	10.3	Establish Regular Review Cycle	Implement an quarterly review process to ensure the SOP remain compliant with federal updates. Use findings to adjust policies and inform future training.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	C	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	The corrective actions identified under Finding 2023-10 are fully integrated into the updated SOPs
Finding 2023-11: Unsupported Sub-Recipient Files (i.e., Compliance, Debarment, or Suspension	11.1	Review and Update Policies for Sub-Recipient Monitoring	Conduct a review of current sub-recipient monitoring policies to ensure compliance with 2 CFR Part 200. Update policies to include clear processes for compliance checks, debarment, and suspension status.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Sub Receipient"
	11.2	Implement Sub-Recipient Documentation and Verification Requirements	Develop and implement a checklist for verifying sub-recipient compliance, eligibility, and debarment/suspension status. Verify sub-recipients against the SAM database, and document results in sub-recipient files. Integrate these requirements into updated policies (11.1).	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I	Suggestion that SOP include sub-recipient oversight and record retention/filing	Refer to the file "SOP_Sub Receipient"
	11.3	Train Staff on Sub-Recipient Monitoring Requirements	Conduct training sessions for staff on federal sub-recipient monitoring requirements, including the use of the checklist and compliance verification processes. Emphasize practical application and risks of non-compliance.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	I	C	N/A	I	I	The proposed action appears to address the recommendations.	Refer to the file "SOP_Sub Receipient_Training"
Finding 2023-12: Budget Matching	12.1	Establish Grant Monitoring Committee	Form a Grant Monitoring Committee to meet monthly, review grant budgets, approve revisions, and ensure alignment with requirements.	12/4/2025	R/A	R	R	R	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I	Suggestion to ensure SOPs and actions for Finding 1 and Finding 12 are in alignment	Dec25: Grant Monitoring Committee was established by the Office of the Chief of Staff
	12.2	Develop an SOP	Develop an SOP outlining forecasting methodologies, budget revision procedures, and documentation requirements. Include the standardized revision request form as part of the SOP. Include written procedures for requesting budget revisions and obtaining grantor approvals. Include timelines and documentation requirements for submission.	5/12/2026	C	R/A	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring".
	12.3	Conduct Training on Budget Compliance and Revision Processes	Conduct mandatory training on federal budget compliance requirements (2 CFR 200), budget revision procedures, and the use of the standardized form. Emphasize practical application for program managers.	5/12/2026	C	C	R/A	R/A	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I		Refer to the file "SOP_Budget Monitoring_Training"
	12.4	Begin Monthly Grant Monitoring Committee Meetings	Begin monthly meetings to review grant budgets, monitor compliance, and address revisions. Use the standardized form and procedures developed in the SOP.	12/10/2025	A	R	R	R	R	R	R	N/A	C	C	N/A	I	I		Dec25: First Grant Monitoring Committee held

Responsible (R): The person or team directly tasked with completing the work. They are responsible for executing the task or activity and ensuring it is completed correctly and on time.
Accountable (A): The person ultimately answerable for the success or failure of the task. They own the task and ensure it is completed as expected. This person is typically a decision-maker and has the authority to approve or reject the outcomes.
Consulted (C): The individuals or groups who provide input, advice, or expertise to the task. They are typically consulted during the decision-making or execution phase to ensure quality and accuracy.
Informed (I): The individuals or groups who need to be kept in the loop about the progress, decisions, or outcomes of the task. They are not directly involved in the task but are kept updated for awareness.

COS	Chief of Staff	Jon Junior Calvo
HSA	Homeland Security Advisor	Esther Aguigui
OCDA	Office of Civil Defense Administrator	Aguigui/Esteves
GRO Director	Guam Recovery Office Director	Joseph Cabana
CAP PM/QMT	Corrective Action Plan Project Manager / Quality Management Team	Lucia Perez
Project Officer	Project Officer	Aguigui/Perez
Finance and Admin	Finance and Administration Section	Multiple staff
Log Officer	Logistics Section Chief	McDonald/Valenzuela
BBMR	Bureau of Budget and Management Research	Joaquin Guerrero
DOA	Department of Administration	Multiple staff
GSA	General Services Agency	Multiple staff
OPA	Office of Public Accountability	Multiple staff
DHS/FEMA	DHS HQ and FEMA Region 9 Grantors	Multiple staff

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 9
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

FEMA

May 12, 2026

Jon M. Calvo
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagatna, GU 96910

Subject: Restricted Drawdown Notification Letter

Dear Chief of Staff Calvo:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 is hereby notifying the Government of Guam that, effective immediately, all federal grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 to the Government of Guam are being placed on restrictive drawdown status. Under this status, agencies must submit supporting documentation to their respective FEMA program offices for review and approval prior to the release of any grant funds.

Background and Rationale

This action is being taken in response to longstanding and significant concerns regarding the management of federal grant funds by the Government of Guam. Specifically:

- Since 2019, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. During this period, Guam substantiated costs for less than 5% of obligated EMPG funding.
- The 2023 Premier Group Audit identified over $40 million in questioned costs and 11 compliance issues, none of which have been fully resolved to date.
- In 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds.

These issues collectively demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance and insufficient corrective action, necessitating the implementation of additional controls to safeguard federal resources.

Affected Grant Programs

The following FEMA grant programs are subject to the restrictive drawdown status:

Preparedness Grants:
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Grant Program, CFDA 97.040
- Emergency Management Performance Grants, CFDA 97.042
- Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, CFDA 97.111
- Emergency Operations Centers, CFDA 97.052

Mitigation Grants:
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, CFDA 97.047
- Community Assistance Program, State Support Services Element, CFDA 97.023
- Cooperating Technical Partners, CFDA 97.045
- Earthquake Consortium and State Support, CFDA 97.082
- Flood Mitigation Assistance, CFDA 97.029
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CFDA 97.039
- National Dam Safety Program, CFDA 97.041
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, CFDA 97.047

Recovery Grants:
- Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program, CFDA 97.032
- Disaster Case Management Program, CFDA 97.088
- Fire Management Assistance Grants, CFDA 97.046
- Public Assistance, CFDA 97.036

Requirements to Lift Restrictions

The restrictive drawdown status will remain in effect until the following conditions are met:
- All corrective actions and questioned costs from the 2023 Premier Group Audit are fully resolved.
- All areas of noncompliance from FEMA's monitoring are fully resolved.
- Three consecutive years of enhanced monitoring are completed with no findings.
- The Validate as You Go (VAYGo) improper payment error rate is reduced to 1.5% or less over three consecutive testing cycles.

FEMA will provide written confirmation once these requirements have been satisfied and will then consider removing the restrictive drawdown status.

Next Steps and Contact Information

FEMA Region 9 remains committed to supporting the Government of Guam in strengthening its grants management practices. We encourage your teams to work closely with FEMA program staff to address the outstanding issues and to ensure compliance with all federal requirements.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this notification or the steps necessary to lift the restrictions, please contact Tammy Littrell, Acting Grants Management Division Director, at Tammy.Littrell@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fenton
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 9

cc: Lester L. Carlson Jr, Director, Bureau of Budget and Management Research
Ester Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor
Ann Winterman, Regional Counsel, FEMA Region 9
Tammy Littrell, Acting Grants Management Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Joseph Engler, Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Kathryn Lipiecki, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Lorena Willess, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA R9
David Gudinas, Deputy Assistant Administrator, FEMA Office of Grants Administration

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 9
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200 Oakland, CA 94607

FEMA

February 12, 2026

Jon J. Calvo
Governor's Chief of Staff

Esther Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor and Administrator
Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD)

Reference: Request for Extension of Premier Group Audit Corrective Action Plan Resolution Deadline

Dear Mr. Calvo and Ms. Aguigui,

This letter is in response to your request for an extension of the Resolution Date for the Premier Group Audit Corrective Action Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby approves the Resolution Date extension, with a new date of **90 days** from the date indicated at the top of this letter.

We appreciate the collaborative efforts of your team in developing this CAP. FEMA Region 9 remains committed to providing technical assistance to ensure the successful execution of these corrective actions

Should you have any questions regarding this extension, please contact Gabriela Santis, Grants Management Specialist, at Gabriela.Santis@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Dorris Lin
Director, Grants Management Division
FEMA Region 9

cc: Robert J. Fenton, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 9
Tammy Littrell, Deputy Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 9
Joseph Engler, Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Kathryn Lipiecki, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Ann Winterman, Regional Council, FEMA Region 9
Lorena Willess, FEMA Integration Team FEMA Region 9
Charles Ada, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA Region 9
Elizabeth Minor, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region 9
Heather Landeros, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region 9

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 9
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

FEMA

January 21, 2026

Jon J. Calvo
Governor's Chief of Staff

Esther Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor and Administrator
Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD)

Subject: Premier Group Audit Corrective Action Plan Approval

Dear Mr. Calvo and Ms. Aguigui,

We are pleased to inform you that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the proposed Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted by Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense. This approval reflects our confidence in your commitment to improving management and financial controls.

We appreciate the collaborative efforts of your team in developing this CAP. FEMA Region 9 remains committed to providing technical assistance to ensure the successful execution of these corrective actions.

Should you require further assistance or have any questions regarding the implementation of the CAP, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tammy Littrell, Deputy Regional Administrator, at Tammy.Littrell@fema.dhs.gov or your staff can contact Gabriela Santis, Grants Management Specialist, at Gabriela.Santis@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fenton
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 9

Enclosures: Corrective Action Plan, Corrective Action Plan RACI Chart

cc: Joseph Engler, Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Kathryn Lipiecki, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Ann Winterman, Regional Council, FEMA Region 9
Lorena Willess, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA Region 9
Charles Ada, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA Region 9
Gabriela Santis, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region 9
Elizabeth Minor, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region 9
Heather Landeros, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region 9

Corrective Action Plan

Finding 2023-01: Budget To Actual Overages

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
1.1	Develop and Implement Budget Monitoring Procedures	Create an SOP detailing monthly reconciliations of expenditures to budget line items, tracking variances, and outlining oversight procedures. Establish internal tracking of actual expenditures by grant funding, maintained monthly by program managers as a backup database.
1.2	Integrate Budget-to-Actual Reporting	Design templates for Budget-to-Actual variances using data exported from GFMIS. Standardize templates for use in oversight meetings. Integrate these reports as a standing agenda item in oversight meetings, aligning discussions with 2 CFR 200 requirements.
1.3	Formalize Certification and Documentation Processes	Develop a workflow SOP requiring formal approval for all transactions. Implement a combined certification tracking system and electronic archive to document expenditure approvals and ensure accessibility for audits.
1.4	Conduct Quarterly Oversight and Internal Audits	Schedule quarterly internal audits to review budget adherence and detect deviations. Present findings and corrective action plans in oversight meetings.
1.5	Comprehensive Staff Training	Conduct annual training sessions on federal guidelines (2 CFR 200), GFMIS functionality, and reporting procedures. Archive training materials for future use.

Finding 2023-02: Time Sheet

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
2.1	Develop Timesheet Templates and SOP for Timekeeping	**Time sheet template complete** Write a detailed SOP outlining timekeeping procedures, submission, supervisor review, and GFMIS integration.
2.2	Conduct Mandatory Training for Employees	Conduct training sessions for employees on the timesheet system, with a focus on time allocation by grant and compliance with federal requirements. Follow-up training every six months to address system issues and reinforce best practices.
2.3	Conduct Internal Timesheet Audits	Conduct monthly internal audits of timesheets to ensure compliance with grant rules. Reconcile payroll allocations with grant agreements and escalate discrepancies to management.

Finding 2023-03: General Ledger/Cash Disbursement/Audit Trail

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
3.1	Develop SOP for Expenditure Transactions	Create an SOP for all transactions recorded on the GFMIS general ledger, including segregation of duties, certification of funds, archiving supporting documents, reconciliation of accounts, and approval workflow for adjustments and corrections.
3.2	Establish Internal Controls and Tracking System	Develop and implement an internal tracking system for transactions by object categories, ensuring monthly reconciliations and a complete audit trail. Designate a primary reviewer to oversee compliance and accuracy.
3.3	Train Finance Personnel on CFR 200 Requirements	Conduct mandatory training for finance personnel on 2 CFR 200 requirements, including the SOP and approval processes. Follow-up training to address audit findings.
3.4	Conduct Quarterly Internal Audits	Conduct quarterly internal audits of cash disbursements to verify compliance with procedures, reconcile discrepancies, and provide corrective action plans to management.

Finding 2023-04: Unsupported Inventory Control

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
4.1	SOP for Inventory Control	Develop and distribute an SOP for inventory control, integrating AssetCloud for tracking inventory (serial numbers, costs, grant sources, acquisition dates) and defining procedures for data entry and updates.
4.2	Conduct Quarterly Physical Inventory Audits	Conduct quarterly physical inventories to ensure records match actual assets, updating AssetCloud and reconciling discrepancies. Perform a review of all inventory records to ensure data accuracy in AssetCloud, aligning with SOP requirements.

Finding 2023-05: Unsupported Salary Charged to the Grants

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
5.1	Develop Salary Allocation Methodology	Action Complete – No changes required.
5.2	Conduct Mandatory Payroll and Grant Compliance Training	Train employees on documenting time, allocating hours, and updating records during position or responsibility changes. Incorporate ongoing refresher training linked to audit findings.
5.3	Monthly Compliance and Salary Expenditure Reviews	Conduct monthly reviews to verify salary allocations, ensuring compliance with grant terms. Use these reviews to inform quarterly audits.
5.4	Quarterly Internal Audits	Schedule quarterly audits to review salary allocations across all grants, incorporating findings from monthly reviews to address compliance gaps.

Finding 2023-06: Insufficient Procurement Procedures

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
6.1	Develop Procurement SOP	Update Finance and Admin SOP to align with grant requirements, covering requisition approvals, vendor payments, and GFMIS tracking.
6.2	Conduct Training on Procurement SOP	Provide training sessions for staff on the updated Procurement SOP and GFMIS functionality. Emphasize compliance with grants and internal processes.
6.3	Implement Monthly Compliance Reviews	Perform monthly reviews to verify procurement compliance with policies, ensuring proper documentation and approvals.
6.4	Conduct Quarterly Procurement Audits	Conduct quarterly audits to review compliance with procurement policies, incorporating vendor disbarment checks (6.4b). Provide feedback and recommendations to management.

Finding 2023-07: Unsupported or ineligible disbursements

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
7.1	Review and Update Disbursement Policies	Review and update all disbursement policies, including documentation and retention requirements (previously 7.2). Ensure policies comply with federal, state, and grant requirements and establish a seven-year archival standard.
7.2	Train Staff on Disbursement Procedures	Conduct training for all staff on eligibility rules, documentation requirements, file management, and retention protocols. Address risks of non-compliance and incorporate feedback from audits.
7.3	Conduct Quarterly Audits of Disbursements	Perform internal audits to verify compliance with updated policies, documentation requirements, and eligibility rules. Use findings to refine procedures and inform training sessions.

Finding 2023-08: Undocumented Travel Expenses Charged

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
8.1	Develop SOP for Travel	Create and distribute an SOP outlining procedures for travel expense documentation, approval, and submission. Include instructions for using the travel request form
8.2	Train Employees on Travel Documentation	Provide training on the updated travel SOP, focusing on using the TPA form, documentation requirements, and GFMIS submission. Highlight compliance with 2 CFR 200.
8.3	Conduct Quarterly Travel Audits	Perform quarterly audits to verify compliance with travel SOPs, focusing on proper documentation and identifying undocumented or unauthorized expenses. Use findings to refine training and processes.

Finding 2023-09: Inaccurate or Untimely Reporting on FFR (SF-425)

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
9.1	Implement a Tickler System for Deadlines	Set up a system to track FFR reporting deadlines with automated reminders sent to key personnel to ensure timely submissions. Include a mechanism for reviewing and updating the system during coordination meetings.
9.2	Coordinate with DOA for Timely and Accurate Submissions	Establish periodic meetings with DOA to review upcoming deadlines, address potential delays, reconcile financial data, and ensure a transparent approval process for FFR submissions.
9.3	Reconcile Financial Data Using GFMIS	Use as400 / GFMIS to reconcile grant expenditures during FFR preparation, ensuring accuracy and alignment with reporting fields. Integrate reconciliation as a key topic in periodic DOA meetings.

Finding 2023-10: Written Policies and Procedures Non-Compliant with Current Federal Guidance

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
10.1	Update Finance and Administrative SOP	Review and incorporate missing federal requirements into the SOP, including documentation practices, internal controls, and audit processes. Establish a process for annual updates.
10.2	Train Staff on Updated Policies	Conduct training sessions for all staff on the updated SOPs. Emphasize changes for federal compliance and practical application.
10.3	Establish Regular Review Cycle	Implement an quarterly review process to ensure the SOP remain compliant with federal updates. Use findings to adjust policies and inform future training.

Finding 2023-11: Unsupported Sub-Recipient Files (i.e., Compliance, Debarment, or Suspension)

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
11.1	Review and Update Policies for Sub-Recipient Monitoring	Conduct a review of current sub-recipient monitoring policies to ensure compliance with 2 CFR Part 200. Update policies to include clear processes for compliance checks, debarment, and suspension status.
11.2	Implement Sub-Recipient Documentation and Verification Requirements	Develop and implement a checklist for verifying sub-recipient compliance, eligibility, and debarment/suspension status. Verify sub-recipients against the SAM database, and document results in sub-recipient files. Integrate these requirements into updated policies (11.1).
11.3	Train Staff on Sub-Recipient Monitoring Requirements	Conduct training sessions for staff on federal sub-recipient monitoring requirements, including the use of the checklist and compliance verification processes. Emphasize practical application and risks of non-compliance.

Finding 2023-12: Budget Matching

Resolution Deadline: January 15, 2026

#	Action	Implementation
12.1	Establish Grant Monitoring Committee	Form a Grant Monitoring Committee to meet monthly, review grant budgets, approve revisions, and ensure alignment with requirements.
12.2	Develop an SOP	Develop an SOP outlining forecasting methodologies, budget revision procedures, and documentation requirements. Include the standardized revision request form as part of the SOP. Include written procedures for requesting budget revisions and obtaining grantor approvals. Include timelines and documentation requirements for submission.
12.3	Conduct Training on Budget Compliance and Revision Processes	Conduct mandatory training on federal budget compliance requirements (2 CFR 200), budget revision procedures, and the use of the standardized form. Emphasize practical application for program managers.
12.4	Begin Monthly Grant Monitoring Committee Meetings	Begin monthly meetings to review grant budgets, monitor compliance, and address revisions. Use the standardized form and procedures developed in the SOP.

Corrective Action Plan RACI Chart

Finding #	#	COS	HSA	OCDA	GRO Director	SHMO	CAP PM/QMT	Project Officer	ASO	Finance and Admin	Log Officer	BBMR	DOA	GSA	OPA	DHS/FEMA
		Leadership					Project Team Members					External Resources				
Finding 2023-01: Budget To Actual Overages	1.1	I	I	A	I	I	R	R	R	R		C			I	I
	1.2	I	I	A	I	I	R	R	R	R		C			I	I
	1.3	I	I	A	I	I	R	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	1.4	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R		C			I	
	1.5		R	R	R	R	R		A	R			C			
Finding 2023-02: Time Sheet	2.1	I	I	R/A	I	I	R	R	R	R					I	I
	2.2		I	A	I	I			R	R						I
	2.3	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R					I	
Finding 2023-03: General Ledger/Cash Disbursement/Audit Trail	3.1	I	I	R	I	I	A	R	R	R			C	C	I	I
	3.2	I	I	R	I	I	A	R	R	R					I	I
	3.3		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
	3.4	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R					I	
Finding 2023-04: Unsupported Inventory Control	4.1	I	I	R	I	I	A	R			R		C		I	I
	4.2	I	I	I	I	I	A	R			R				I	

R= Responsible
A= Accountable
C= Consulted
I= Informed

Finding #	#	COS	HSA	OCDA	GRO Director	SHMO	CAP PM/QMT	Project Officer	ASO	Finance and Admin	Log Officer	BBMR	DOA	GSA	OPA	DHS/FEMA
		Leadership					Project Team Members					External Resources				
Finding 2023-05: Unsupported Salary Charged to the Grants	5.1		R/A	R/A	R/A	I	R	R	R	R						I
	5.2		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
	5.3		I	I	I	I	R	R	A	R						
	5.4	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R					I	
Finding 2023-06: Insufficient Procurement Procedures	6.1	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C	C	I	I
	6.2		R	R	R	R	R	R	A	R						I
	6.3	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R						
	6.4	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C	C	I	
Finding 2023-07: Unsupported or ineligible disbursements	7.1	I	I	R	I	I	A	R	R	R			C	C	I	I
	7.2		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
	7.3	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C	C	I	
Finding 2023-08: Undocumented Travel Expenses Charged	8.1	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	8.2		I	R	I	I	R		A	R						I
	8.3	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C	C	I	

R= Responsible
A= Accountable
C= Consulted
I= Informed

Finding #	#	COS	HSA	OCDA	GRO Director	SHMO	CAP PM/QMT	Project Officer	ASO	Finance and Admin	Log Officer	BBMR	DOA	GSA	OPA	DHS/FEMA
		Leadership					Project Team Members					External Resources				
Finding 2023-09: Inaccurate or Untimely Reporting on FFR (SF-425)	9.1	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C		I	I
	9.2		I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R			C			
	9.3		I	I	I	I	R	R	A	R			C			I
Finding 2023-10: Written Policies and Procedures Non-Compliant with Current Federal Guidance	10.1	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	10.2		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
	10.3	I	C	C	C	C	R/A	R	R	R			C	C	I	C
Finding 2023-11: Unsupported Sub-Recipient Files (i.e., Compliance, Debarment, or Suspension	11.1	I	R	R	R	R	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	11.2	I	R	R	R	R	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	11.3		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
Finding 2023-12: Budget Matching	12.1	I	C	R/A	C	C	R	R	R	R					I	I
	12.2	I	I	R	I	I	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I
	12.3		R	R	R	R	R		A	R						I
	12.4	I	I	I	I	I	R/A	R	R	R		C	C		I	I

R= Responsible
A= Accountable
C= Consulted
I= Informed

Gmail **Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>**

EMF-2020-EP-00001 Drawdown Request

1 message

Minor, Elizabeth <elizabeth.minor@fema.dhs.gov> Thu, May 8, 2025 at 8:41 AM
To: Jon Junior M Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, "Aguigui, Esther" <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: "Esteves, Charles (External)" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>, "Perez, Lucia" <lucia.perez@ghs.guam.gov>, "Littrell, Tammy" <Tammy.Littrell@fema.dhs.gov>, "Henderson, John Paul" <JohnPaul.Henderson@fema.dhs.gov>, "Saavedra, Angelica" <angelica.saavedra@fema.dhs.gov>, "Casto, Connie" <connie.casto@fema.dhs.gov>, "Landeros, Heather" <heather.landeros@fema.dhs.gov>, "Santis, Gabriela" <gabriela.santis@fema.dhs.gov>, "Willess, Lorena" <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>, "Ada, Charles" <charles.ada@fema.dhs.gov>

Mr. Calvo and Ms. Aguigui,

Please see the attached letter partially approving GHS/OCD's EMF-2020-EP-00001 drawdown request.

~ Elizabeth

Elizabeth Minor

Grants Management Specialist

FEMA Region 9 Grants Management Division

Grants Services Branch

Mobile: [redacted]

Guam FY2020 EMPG Drawdown Response Letter.pdf
253K

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 9
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
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FEMA

May 7, 2025

Jon J. Calvo
Governor's Chief of Staff
Acting Administrator
Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD)

Esther Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor
Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD)

Reference: EMF-2020-EP-00001 Drawdown Request

Dear Mr. Calvo and Ms. Aguigui,

This responds to Guam Homeland Security/Civil Defense's (GHS/OCD) February 26, 2025, request for final drawdown of award EMF-2020-EP-00001. GHS/OCD requested approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for final total funding detailed in the table below.

Budget Line	Approved Budget Amount	GHS/OCD Claimed Amount	Final FEMA Approved Amount
Personnel	$532,099.50	$630,484.43	$0.00
Fringe	$188,788.90	$262,888.35	$0.00
Travel	$63,148.00	$6,812.00	$2,980.00
Equipment	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Supplies	$15,000.00	$31,564.81	$28,366.87
Contractual	$196,402.60	$155,556.51	$155,183.07
Construction	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Other	$0.00	$0.00	$600.00
Charges Previously Submitted and Approved by FEMA		$93,779.72	$93,779.72
Total	**$995,439.00**	**$1,181,085.82**	**$280,909.66**

Personnel and Fringe

FEMA denies all Personnel and Fringe reimbursements. 2 C.F.R. § 200.430(i) requires that charges to federal awards for salaries and wages be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must be supported by a system of internal control which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated. The documentation provided does none of the above.

GHS/OCD did not provide documentation showing the requisite system of internal controls to review allocations made to the federal award. For example, one employee's description of their work was: "COVID-19 Response – Deputy Finance and Admin Section Chief. Public Assistance Project Coordinator for 44995DRGU Grants Manager tasks for HSGP, EMPG, NSGP, and PA." Neither the Timesheet nor the description provides a break-down of time required to properly allocate charges to the various federal awards.

FEMA has documented GHS/OCD's lack of internal controls related to payroll allocations for over a decade. This has been a consistent finding in FEMA's Enhanced Financial Monitoring since at least FY2014.

Travel

GHS/OCD requested $6,812.00 in travel reimbursement: $6,212.00 for the 2021 Pacific Partnership Meeting (PPM) and $600.00 for the 2021 National Emergency Management Association Emergency Management Policy and Leadership Forum (NEMA Forum).

A review of the documents showed that four (4) of the five (5) travel documents submitted for the 2021 PPM include per diem for the 2021 Pacific Executive Leadership Program (PELP). Per diem for the PELP was provided to attendees by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security; therefore, these charges are a duplication. FEMA approves a total of $2,980 to cover the per diem for attendance at the PPM (4 days x $149/day = $596/person; $596 x 5 people = $2,980).

The document provided for the 2021 NEMA Forum, was not travel related; therefore, FEMA denies this request under the Travel budget. However, this charge is allowable under "Other" and has been approved therein.

Supplies

FEMA denies $3,197.94 in requested supply costs: $502.32 from Cost-U-Less due to lack of receipt and $3,700.26 from GovGuam-General Service Agency for lack of supporting documentation.

Contractual

FEMA denies $373.44 in requested contractual costs. The backup documents for IP&E show total charges of $3,737.42 rather than the requested $4,110.86.

Other

As noted above, FEMA approves $600 for annual state fees associated with the 2021 NEMA Forum. These charges were incorrectly listed as "Travel" in GHS/OCD's request.

Charges Previously Submitted and Approved by FEMA

In a letter dated September 26, 2024, FEMA approved $93,779.72 of expenditures under GHS/OCD's EMF-2019-EP-00001 award; however, GHS/OCD was not able to draw the funds before they expired on September 30, 2024. In a letter dated January 30, 2025, GHS/OCD requested that the eligible costs be transferred to the EMF-2020-EP-00001 award in accordance with FEMA's letter dated December 2, 2024.

Closeout Liquidation Period

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.343, FEMA approves a closeout liquidation period extension through June 30, 2025. No further extensions will be provided. Please have your finance staff coordinate the drawdown with Elizabeth Minor, Grants Management Specialist, via email at elizabeth.minor@fema.dhs.gov.

Closeout Requirements

This letter is also considered your first notice pertaining to Administrative Closeout of this award. If we do not receive the required documents by June 30, 2025, we will send you a second and, if needed, a third notice. If we do not receive the required documents by the date in the third and final notice, we will administratively close the award and report your material failure to comply with closeout requirements as mandated by 2 C.F.R. 200.344(i).

The following are due on or before June 30, 2025:

1. The final Performance Progress Report (PPR) submitted either in the ND Grants system or sent to fema-r9-grants-services-action-office@fema.dhs.gov with a cc to heather.landeros@fema.dhs.gov. The final PPR must be based on the approved EMPG Program Work Plan, include a program narrative detailing all accomplishments, and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance, Project Activity Outline, Exercise Data Table, and Training Data Table.

2. A final Federal Financial Report (FFR) in the Payment and Reporting System (PARS).

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact either Heather Landeros, Grants Management Specialist, at heather.landeros@fema.dhs.gov or Elizabeth Minor, Grants Management Specialist, at elizabeth.minor@fema.dhs.gov.

[SIGNATURE BLOCK NEXT PAGE]

Sincerely,

Angelica Saavedra, Director
Grants Management Division
FEMA Region 9

cc: Tammy Littrell, Deputy Regional Administrator, FEMA R9
J.P. Henderson, Regional Counsel, FEMA R9
Lorena Willess, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA R9
Charles Ada, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA R9
Heather Landeros, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA R9
Gabriela Santis, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA R9
Elizabeth Minor, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA R9

FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(Follow from instructions)

OMB Number: 4040-0014
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) EMF-2019-EP-00001

3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)

Recipient Organization Name:	GUAM OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECUR ITY/ OFFIC		
Street 1:	221B CHALAN PALASYO		
Street 2:			
City:	AGANA HEIGHTS	County:	GU
State:	GU	Province:	GU
Country	USA: United States	Zip / Postal Code:	96910

4a. UEI	4b. EIN	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)
JVTMKPN79YC7	980018947	5101H190280HS2EM/MA

6. Report Type	7. Basis of Accounting	8. Project/Grant Period From	To:	9. Reporting Period End Date
☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Annual ☒ Final	☐ Cash ☒ Accrual	10/01/2018	05/31/2023	05/31/2023

10. Transactions	Cumulative
(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)	
Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR Attachment):	
a. Cash Receipts	$ 958,691.37
b. Cash Disbursements	$ 958,691.37
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)	$ 0.00
(Use lines d-o for single or multiple grant reporting)	
Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:	
d. Total Federal funds authorized	$ 981,525.00
e. Federal share of expenditures	$ 958,691.37
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations	$ 0.00
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)	$ 958,691.37
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)	$ 22,833.63
Recipient Share:	
i. Total recipient share required	$ 0.00
j. Recipient share of expenditures	$ 0.00
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)	$ 0.00
Program Income:	
l. Total Federal program income earned	$ 0.00
m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative	$ 0.00
n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative	$ 0.00
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)	$ 0.00

11. Indirect Expese	a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
		0.0			$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
		0.0			$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
				g. Totals:	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00

12. Remarks: Attach any explainations deemed necessary or information required by Fereral sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation:

13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify that it is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that

a. Typed or printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official
CHARLES V. ESTEVES, OCD ADMINISTRATOR

b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official	c. Telephone (Area code, number and extension) 671-478-0204/05/06	
d. Email address charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov	e. Date Report Submitted 03/25/2024	14. Agency use only:

Standard Form 425

Guam Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - FY2025 Q1 Quarterly Report

2 messages

charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov> Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 1:52 PM
To: "Johnston, Jeanne" <Jeanne.Johnston@fema.dhs.gov>
Cc: "Baumgartner, Emily" <emily.baumgartner@fema.dhs.gov>, "Willess, Lorena" <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>, catrina.contreras@ghs.guam.gov, George Toves <george.toves@ghs.guam.gov>, jon.calvo@guam.gov

Hafa Adai Jeanne,

Attached is the Guam FY2025 Q1 Quarterly Report. Thank you.

r/

Charles

From: Johnston, Jeanne <Jeanne.Johnston@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:40 AM
To: Esteves, Charles (External) <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: Baumgartner, Emily <emily.baumgartner@fema.dhs.gov>; Willess, Lorena <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: FW: Guam FY2025 Q1 Quarterly Report - due back to FEMA January 30, 2025
Importance: High

Just a friendly reminder. Please be sure you get the Q1 FY2025 back to me by January 30, 2025.

Hafa Adai,

Jeanne

From: Johnston, Jeanne
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:28 PM
To: Esteves, Charles (External) <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: Willess, Lorena <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>; Baumgartner, Emily <emily.baumgartner@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: Guam FY2025 Q1 Quarterly Report - due back to FEMA January 30, 2025

Charles:

Please find the HMGP FY25 Q1 Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) spreadsheet attached. We kindly request the updated spreadsheet be returned by COB **Thursday, January 30, 2025.**

REMINDERS – Please share the below information with your Stakeholders.

1. Regions are reminded to review the QPRs prior to submission. If there are any discrepancies, they should be discussed with the Recipients for resolution. Data should not be modified by the Region without prior conversations with the Recipients. Keep in mind the Scorecard is a Recipient scorecard and should be shared with each of your Recipients.

2. Data Completeness- All required fields must have data in the cells. These cells include Cost Code, Status, Percentage Work Complete, Total Recipient Drawdown and Sub-recipient Expenditures to date.

If there is nothing to report in the above fields, enter zero. Otherwise, this will count as an error in the scorecard. Be aware that entering zeros for more than four quarters will prompt errors in the Data Reasonableness/Accuracy columns on the scorecards.

3. Please be extra careful to only add information to the same spreadsheets that are UPLOADED to SharePoint for the current quarter and don't delete or add any rows. Changing the file format could result in multiple problems for processing. Spreadsheets are Pre-Populate each quarter with information from NEMIS. Not using the spreadsheets that are disseminated each reporting period causes multiple issues as the information that is being sent out does not match the returns and causes significant delays in processing.

4. Column Y asks, "If in Closeout, where does it reside?" and a drop-down box with the options "FEMA" or "Recipient". This should be populated by the Recipient and verified by FEMA. Columns Z and AA have been added to allow the user to select the reason for closeout deficiency in the drop-down menu and include a brief description in AA if "Other" is selected on the dropdown menu.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Regards,

Jeanne Johnston

Hazard Mitigation Grants Specialist | Pacific Area Office | FEMA Region 9

Office: (808) 851-7913 | Mobile: [redacted]

Jeanne.Johnston@fema.dhs.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
fema.gov

FEMA

Guam_FY2025_Q1.xlsx
57K

Johnston, Jeanne <Jeanne.Johnston@fema.dhs.gov> Sat, Feb 1, 2025 at 4:15 AM
To: "Esteves, Charles (External)" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: "Baumgartner, Emily" <emily.baumgartner@fema.dhs.gov>, "Willess, Lorena" <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>, "catrina.contreras@ghs.guam.gov" <catrina.contreras@ghs.guam.gov>, George Toves <george.toves@ghs.guam.gov>, "jon.calvo@guam.gov" <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Charles:

I have received your Q1 FY2025 Quarterly Report. It is currently under review.

Hafa Adai,

Jeanne

From: charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 5:52 PM
To: Johnston, Jeanne <Jeanne.Johnston@fema.dhs.gov>
Cc: Baumgartner, Emily <emily.baumgartner@fema.dhs.gov>; Willess, Lorena <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>; catrina.contreras@ghs.guam.gov; George Toves <george.toves@ghs.guam.gov>; jon.calvo@guam.gov
Subject: Guam Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - FY2025 Q1 Quarterly Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Please select the Phish Alert Report button on the top right of your screen to report this email if it is unsolicited or suspicious in nature.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Fwd: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001

4 messages

Marie T. Quenga <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov> Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 12:22 PM
To: "Mary Grace V. Edrosa" <marygrace.edrosa@doa.guam.gov>, Gaudencio A Rosario <gaudencio.rosario@doa.guam.gov>, Krystyna Ilagan <krystyna.ilagan@doa.guam.gov>
Cc: Charles Esteves <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>, Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>, "Elizabeth T. Fisher" <lisa.fisher@doa.guam.gov>, Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Hafa Adai Mary Grace,

With respect to the reimbursement of our federal grants, please refer to the email thread from our FEMA counterparts. We will be granted permission to extend the liquidation period, and they would like us to reconcile the EMPG grants from FY19. [redacted]

Your guidance in this matter is greatly appreciated

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Charles Esteves** <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 9:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001
To: T. Quenga Marie <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>

Please see below

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thach, Heather" <heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov>
Date: June 12, 2024 at 06:49:12 GMT+10
To: Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>, "Esteves, Charles (External)" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>, "Aguigui, Esther" <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: "Aujla, Sukhbir" <sukhbir.aujla@fema.dhs.gov>, "Bryant, Megan" <megan.bryant@fema.dhs.gov>, "Casto, Connie" <connie.casto@fema.dhs.gov>, "Saavedra, Angelica" <angelica.saavedra@fema.dhs.gov>, "Thach, Heather" <heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov>, "Willess, Lorena" <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001

Hafa Adai Charles, HSA Aguigui, and Joe,

I hope everyone is doing well. Please take the following actions for the FY 2019 EMPG EMF-2019-EP-00001 liquidation extension request:

1. Submit a signed letter requesting:

- The liquidation period extension to 8/31/2024, solely for drawing down funds to cover allowable FY 2019 EMPG expenditures incurred through 5/31/2023, completing financially reconcile the grant, and submitting the required final reports SF-425 financial report and PPR (if applicable) for closeout.
- Removal of M&A budget conditional hold (see below):

> Note: GHS/OCD must review the attached M&A budget spreadsheet and confirm if the information is still correct. Otherwise, update and resubmit it for FEMA review. For ease of reference, see the screenshot below for the M&A conditional hold requirement:

The signed letter and M&A budget must be submitted in ND Grants by 6/17/2024 (PST).

2. Also, the following actions must be completed by 6/30/2024 (PST):

- Email FEMA the release of funds request/s and associated supporting documentation (signed contracts, purchase orders, invoices, signed timesheets, payroll distribution report, proof of payment, signed travel authorizations & vouchers, receipts, etc.) for the expenditures.
- Email FEMA the financial reports from Guam's financial system to support $958,691.37 for cash disbursements (line 10.b) and federal share of expenditures (line 10.e) as reported in the attached SF-425.
- The attached SF-425 report must be revised and resubmitted in PARS:
  - Change Report Type (box 6) from "final" to "quarterly" due to pending drawdowns.
  - Cash Receipts (line 10.a) must be revised from $958,691.37 to $0, because our records show GHS/OCD has not received/drawn down any funds from the award.
  - Submit a system report of actual expenditures vs. approved budget (below) through 3/31/2024.

As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions or if you need further assistance.

Thank you,

Heather

Heather Thach

Grants Management Specialist

Grant Services Branch | Grants Management Division | Region 9

Mobile: [redacted]

heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency

fema.gov

---

5 attachments

image002.png
42K

[redacted]

image004.png
12K

[redacted]

Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov> Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 12:41 PM
To: "Marie T. Quenga" <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: "Mary Grace V. Edrosa" <marygrace.edrosa@doa.guam.gov>, Gaudencio A Rosario <gaudencio.rosario@doa.guam.gov>, Krystyna Ilagan <krystyna.ilagan@doa.guam.gov>, Charles Esteves <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>, Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>, "Elizabeth T. Fisher" <lisa.fisher@doa.guam.gov>

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for this update.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,

JJC
[Quoted text hidden]

Edward M. Birn <Edward.Birn@doa.guam.gov> Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 10:59 PM
To: Krystyna Ilagan <Krystyna.Ilagan@doa.guam.gov>, Theresa Rivers <Theresa.Rivers@doa.guam.gov>, Jon Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, "Elizabeth T. Fisher" <lisa.fisher@doa.guam.gov>, Marie Quenga <marie.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>, Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>, "charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>

[redacted]

EDWARD M BIRN
Director of Administration
edward.birn@doa.guam.gov
(671) 475-1250

From: Krystyna Ilagan <Krystyna.Ilagan@doa.guam.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 8:08 AM
To: Edward M. Birn <Edward.Birn@doa.guam.gov>; Theresa Rivers <Theresa.Rivers@doa.guam.gov>
Subject: Fw: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001

From: Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Marie T. Quenga <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: Mary Grace V. Edrosa <MaryGrace.Edrosa@doa.guam.gov>; Gaudencio A Rosario <Gaudencio.Rosario@doa.guam.gov>; Krystyna Ilagan <Krystyna.Ilagan@doa.guam.gov>; Charles Esteves <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>; Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>; Elizabeth T. Fisher <lisa.fisher@doa.guam.gov>
Subject: Re: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for this update.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,
JJC

On Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 12:22 PM Marie T. Quenga <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>> wrote:
Hafa Adai Mary Grace,

With respect to the reimbursement of our federal grants, please refer to the email thread from our FEMA counterparts. We will be granted permission to extend the liquidation period, and they would like us to reconcile the EMPG grants from FY19. [redacted]

Your guidance in this matter is greatly appreciated

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From: Charles Esteves <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>>
Date: Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 9:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001
To: T. Quenga Marie <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>>

Please see below

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thach, Heather" <heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov>>
Date: June 12, 2024 at 06:49:12 GMT+10
To: Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>>, "Esteves, Charles (External)" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>>, "Aguigui, Esther" <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov<mailto:esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>>
Cc: "Aujla, Sukhbir" <sukhbir.aujla@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:sukhbir.aujla@fema.dhs.gov>>, "Bryant, Megan" <megan.bryant@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:megan.bryant@fema.dhs.gov>>, "Casto, Connie" <connie.casto@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:connie.casto@fema.dhs.gov>>, "Saavedra, Angelica" <angelica.saavedra@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:angelica.saavedra@fema.dhs.gov>>, "Thach, Heather" <heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov>>, "Willess, Lorena" <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>>
Subject: RE: Guam FY 2019 EMPG CLP Extension EMF-2019-EP-00001

Hafa Adai Charles, HSA Aguigui, and Joe,

I hope everyone is doing well. Please take the following actions for the FY 2019 EMPG EMF-2019-EP-00001 liquidation extension request:

1. Submit a signed letter requesting:

* The liquidation period extension to 8/31/2024, solely for drawing down funds to cover allowable FY 2019 EMPG expenditures incurred through 5/31/2023, completing financially reconcile the grant, and submitting the required final reports SF-425 financial report and PPR (if applicable) for closeout.
* Removal of M&A budget conditional hold (see below):

Note: GHS/OCD must review the attached M&A budget spreadsheet and confirm if the information is still correct. Otherwise, update and resubmit it for FEMA review. For ease of reference, see the screenshot below for the M&A conditional hold requirement:

The signed letter and M&A budget must be submitted in ND Grants by 6/17/2024 (PST).

1. Also, the following actions must be completed by 6/30/2024 (PST):

* Email FEMA the release of funds request/s and associated supporting documentation (signed contracts, purchase orders, invoices, signed timesheets, payroll distribution report, proof of payment, signed travel authorizations & vouchers, receipts, etc.) for the expenditures.
* Email FEMA the financial reports from Guam's financial system to support $958,691.37 for cash disbursements (line 10.b) and federal share of expenditures (line 10.e) as reported in the attached SF-425.
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  * Change Report Type (box 6) from "final" to "quarterly" due to pending drawdowns.
  * Cash Receipts (line 10.a) must be revised from $958,691.37 to $0, because our records show GHS/OCD has not received/drawn down any funds from the award.
  * Submit a system report of actual expenditures vs. approved budget (below) through 3/31/2024.

As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions or if you need further assistance.

Thank you,

Heather

Heather Thach

Grants Management Specialist

Grant Services Branch | Grants Management Division | Region 9

Mobile: [redacted]

heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov<mailto:heather.thach@fema.dhs.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[redacted]

winmail.dat
24K

Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov> Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 9:35 AM
To: "Marie T. Quenga" <marie.t.quenga@ghs.guam.gov>
Cc: Krystyna Ilagan <Krystyna.Ilagan@doa.guam.gov>, Theresa Rivers <Theresa.Rivers@doa.guam.gov>, Jon Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, "Elizabeth T. Fisher" <lisa.fisher@doa.guam.gov>, "charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov" <charles.esteves@ghs.guam.gov>, "Edward M. Birn" <Edward.Birn@doa.guam.gov>, Esther Aguigui <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>

Hafa Adai Marie:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

Gmail

Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Fwd: 4495DR-GU | Guam Memorial Hospital | Obligation of Contract Nursing Projects - 676924, 698742, 661770, 668640

1 message

Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov> Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 2:29 AM
To: Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Good Morning Chief;

FYI from FEMA

Regards

Joe

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Conley, Mark** <mark.conley2@fema.dhs.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 1:57 AM
Subject: 4495DR-GU | Guam Memorial Hospital | Obligation of Contract Nursing Projects - 676924, 698742, 661770, 668640
To: Lillian Perez-Posadas <lillian.perez-posadas@gmha.org>, dustin.prins@gmha.org <dustin.prins@gmha.org>, William Kando <wnk@gmha.org>, Jeffrey Ventura <jeffrey.ventura@gmha.org>, Therese (Paula) Pelayo <therese.pelayo@gmha.org>, yukari.hechanova@gmha.org <yukari.hechanova@gmha.org>, Edlyn Dalisay <edlyn.dalisay@gmha.org>, don.rabanal@gmha.org <don.rabanal@gmha.org>, deborah.belanger@gmha.org <deborah.belanger@gmha.org>, liezl.concepcion@gmha.org <liezl.concepcion@gmha.org>, leeann.acfalle@gmha.org <leeann.acfalle@gmha.org>, Timothy Chargualaf <timothy.chargualaf@gmha.org>, paula.pelayo@gmha.org <paula.pelayo@gmha.org>
CC: Joseph Cabana <joseph.cabana@ghs.guam.gov>, Arlene Finona <arlene.finona@ghs.guam.gov>, Norma Manglona <norma.manglona@ghs.guam.gov>, Candise NML Aragon <candise.aragon@ghs.guam.gov>, Tricia Benavente <tricia.benavente@ghs.guam.gov>, Willess, Lorena <Lorena.Willess@fema.dhs.gov>, Ada, Charles <charles.ada@fema.dhs.gov>, Carlan, Donald <Donald.Carlan@fema.dhs.gov>, Wilson, Decovan <decovan.wilson@fema.dhs.gov>, Sanchez, Annie <annie.sanchez@fema.dhs.gov>

To the GMHA/FEMA Public Assistance Team –

Hafa Adai and Greetings from the FEMA-Region IX Office in Oakland, California.

Listed below are the four GMHA Contract Nursing Projects obligated in the Emergency Management Mission Integrated Environment System (EMMIE). The date obligated and amount are listed below:

Project 676924 - *GMHA - COVID-19 Surge Medical Staffing Contract Nurses Peak Surge 3* January 8, 2022 – March 31, 2022, - EMMIE Obligation, 03/20/2023, $2,159,342.40

Project 698742 - *GMHA - COVID-19 Surge Medical Staffing Contract Nurses Peak Surge 4, April 1 to June 30, 2022* – EMMIE Obligation, 03/20/2023, $3,509,612.67

Project 661770 – *GMHA COVID-19 Contract Nurses–2020 Surge 1: March 2020 - April 2020* – EMMIE Obligation, 03/20/2023, $2,099,425.74

Project 668640 – *GMHA COVID-19 Contract Nurses–2021 Surge 2: August 2020 – January 2021* – EMMIE Obligation, 03/20/2023, $2,099,425.74

Please coordinate with the staff at Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense (GHSOCD) to begin the drawdown of these funds. We will discuss the obligation of the four Contract Nursing Projects on our GMHA/FEMA weekly Zoom Conference call tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Mark Conley

Emergency Management Specialist| Recovery Division | Region 9

Mobile: [redacted]

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

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Joseph L. Cabana

Public Assistance / Director

Public Assistance Program – GUAM RECOVERY OFFICE

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard convened an Oversight Hearing regarding the Office of Civil Defense-Office of Homeland Security (OCD-OHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants on June 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in Hagåtña.

<u>Public Notice Requirements</u>
Public Hearing Notices sent out via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on June 4, 2026 (5-Day Notice) and again on June 10, 2026 (48-Hour Notice) for the Oversight hearing on June 15, 2026. All notices were also published on the Guam Public Notice Website on the aforementioned dates.

<u>Senators Present</u>
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Committee Chairperson
Vice Speaker Tony Ada, Committee Vice Chairperson
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr., Committee Member
Senator Chris Duenas
Senator Sabina Perez

<u>Attendees</u>
Mr. Joe Cabana, Guam Recovery Office
Ms. Esther Aguigui, OHS-OCD
Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS-OCD
Mr. Jack Hattig, Guam Recovery Office
Mr. Logan Reyes, OHS-OCD

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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Oversight Hearing - Senator Shawn Gumataotao - June 15, 2026 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Buenas and hafa adai, everyone. Today's oversight hearing by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and your Guam National Guard is called to order. Today is Monday, June 15, 2026, and the time is now 8:31 a.m. CHamoru Standard Time for the record and in accordance with the open government law notices for today's oversight hearing were sent on June 4, 2026 and again on June 10, 2026. Notices for this hearing were also published on the Guam Legislature website and the Guam Public Notices website. Joining us here are members of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard. I'd like to introduce the Vice Speaker and also the co-chair of this committee, Tony Ada. Thank you again for being with us this morning.

And before we proceed with the discussion, I'd first like to provide some general rules of conduct for this morning's oversight hearing, which shall be as follows written comments or presentations shall be submitted to the committee. Please provide my legislative staff with your written comments for folks. Comments may be read and lengthy presentations should be summarized to about five minutes. Those offering comments will be allowed to present written or oral testimony in the five minute time frame allotted, I please ask you would respect the committee's request. Once you are done, please remain in the room for questions or additional comments as may be desired by members of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard and other members of the legislature. Questions and comments should be sent shall be confined to the nature of the agenda.

The agenda for this morning's oversight hearing is designed for the committee to receive an update regarding the Corrective Action Plan relative to the Office of Civil Defense and Office of Homeland Security FEMA grants covered by the 2023 Premier Audit…Premier Group Audit, Office of Public Accountability Report Number 24-07 from June of 2024, and the Office of Public Accountability Report number 24-12 from December 2024. For the record, the committee requested the attendance and participation of the respective heads of the following departments and agencies the Office of the Governor of Guam, the Office of Civil Defense, the Office of Homeland Security, the Guam Recovery Office, the Department of Administration, the Bureau of Budget Management and Research, and the Office of Public Accountability. At this time, the Chair requests for these individuals, if they are present, to please take a seat before the committee, and they are already there. And before speaking, if I could ask to please wait to be recognized by the Chair and state your name for record purposes. The order of questioning will begin with the panel of senators who shall each have five minutes to ask their questions. The time allotted to each senator does not include responses that are provided by those testifying. Personal inferences about the character or motive of any senator or any individual commenting is not permitted. Any violations of this general rule of conduct will result in removal from the public hearing room for this morning's oversight hearing. Individuals who fail to maintain proper form or decorum may be restricted from providing oral testimony and or may be asked to leave or be escorted and removed from the room. Proper form and decorum shall be practiced by all present in the public hearing room. Colleagues and those who are following today's oversight hearing, the committee organized today's discussion to receive a organize today's discussion to receive an update from Government of Guam officials regarding corrective actions linked to federal and local audits, which I referenced just moments ago. According to OPA Report No.

24-07, FEMA's ongoing concerns about Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense's ability to properly manage and administer federal grant awards prompted them to contract a private auditing firm, the Premier Audit Group Services Inc., or what's also known as the Premier Group to conduct a program specific audit. The report noted that auditors were unable to confirm or verify the costs incurred by GHS/OCD, as well as determine whether the costs were allowable and allocable. As a result, question costs totaling 34.7 million dollars and was also subject to FEMA's decision whether or not to sustain the findings and have GHS/OCD repay disallowed costs. Shortly after being elected to this particular office, OPA report number 24-12 concluded that GHS/OCD was noncompliant with applicable federal and local laws, personnel rules, and SOPs relative to overtime costs incurred from FY2018 to FY2023. Overtime was unauthorized, unreasonable, and unallocable, and was not supported. Additionally, the lack of SOPs, segregation of duties and prior audit findings of questionable activity heightened fraud risk at GHS/OCD. Through information obtained from external sources, the committee learned last month that all FEMA grants for Guam were placed on restrictive drawdown status. To confirm this assertion, the committee sent a Freedom of Information Act request to the Office of the Governor on May 15, 2026. On May 21, 2026, the governor's office requested for additional time to respond. The governor's office responded to the committee's FOIA request a week later on May 29, 2026. The information provided to the committee included a letter FEMA sent on May 12, 2026, to the Governor's Chief of Staff, informing him that all federal grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 to the Government of Guam were being placed on restrictive drawdown status effective immediately. According to FEMA, under the restrictive drawdown status, agencies must submit supporting documentation to their respective FEMA program offices for review and approval prior to the release of any grant funds. FEMA's decision to place all grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 on restrictive drawdown status is in response to long standing and significant concerns regarding the government of Guam's management of federal grant funds.

Now FEMA identified three issues. One, since 2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant, or the EMPG, and Homeland Security Grant Program HSGP, awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted for fiscal years 2016 to 2018. During this period, Guam substantiated costs for less than 5 percent of obligated EMPG funding. Two, the 2023 Premier Group audit identified over 40 million dollars in questioned costs and 11 compliance issues, none of which have been fully resolved to date, this, according to FEMA. And three, in 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds. Today, the committee is focused on establishing a clear understanding of the steps that the executive branch has taken to safeguard federal resources through a corrective action plan and verifiable follow through. If these resources are not handled according to FEMA requirements, they have the potential to jeopardize critically federally funded preparedness, mitigation, and recovery grants moving forward. The committee made it clear to OCD and OHS leadership during our earlier oversight hearings in January of 2025 and February of 2026 that compliance with applicable federal and local statutes and regulations are critical to our emergency management infrastructure. Without encroaching on executive branch responsibilities, the committee continues to support our first responders by way of legislative oversight. The committee conducted a mission check in May of 2025. We communicated our concerns regarding working conditions at the Emergency Operations Center, the EOC, in Agana Heights, including mold remediation and needed repairs to the EOC backup generator and elevator systems. And the committee made our position known regarding federal decertification of the

Marianas Regional Fusion Center secure room and their broader impacts on our ability to store, process, reproduce, destroy, transmit, receive, and discuss classified national security information. Our efforts, quite frankly, are not politically driven. The work of this committee is not aimed at weakening organizations that are already challenged with unfavorable audit findings, government corruption allegations, and most recently had all FEMA grants placed on restrictive drawdown status. Our collective interest is in strengthening emergency management services now, so that Guam is as prepared as we can be before, during, and after a disaster, particularly with the help of critical federal resources. Our concerns and our consistent oversight efforts recognize the five guiding principles for improvement across FEMA which were put forward in the final report issued on May 7, 2026, by the President's Council to assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The guiding principles aim to one, equip states, local governments, tribes, and territories to lead disaster response with the federal government in a supporting role, two, to enhance critical federal programs and resources to support communities. Three, realign the criteria for federal disaster assistance. Four, replace the hazard mitigation grant program with a two phase funding structure, and five, to streamline the individual assistance program into a single direct payment program. The committee appreciates in advance your cooperation and candor as we engage today with the objective of building up emergency management services. This oversight hearing should help all in this room to acknowledge the gaps in our emergency management system and help establish a path forward to fix what's broken together.

Thank you so very much and at this time, the committee requests the Sergeant at Arms Mr. Ed Pocaigue, to swear in agency representatives before they offer comments and answer questions today from senators on today's oversight hearing agenda.

Mr. Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms: Please stand and raise your right hand. Under penalty of perjury, do you affirm that any and all information you provide today, whether it be verbally, electronically, and in writing, be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? [*Inaudible*] Mr. Chair they are under oath, you may proceed.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much, Mr. Pocaigue. So, thank you very much, and we're going to begin with comments from this panel, and since she's here in the middle, I'll go ahead and I'll defer and have our Homeland Security Advisor, Esther Aguigui, to begin. And thank you and welcome to the Guam Congress Building.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Hafa adai and good morning, Chair, thank you very much. Buenas and hafa adai Chairman Gumataotao, and members of this committee. I am Esther J.C. Aguigui, Guam's Homeland Security Advisor, and I am here today to provide an update on our Corrective Action Plan responding to the 2023 Premier Group audit. I want to begin with the distinction that matters most because the record contains two federal actions that are easily confused. In January, FEMA approved our Corrective Action Plan. In May, FEMA placed our grants on restricted drawdown. These are not contradictory. The first is a judgment that our plan is sound. The second is a control mechanism that keeps federal funds flowing while we prove that soundness over time. One speaks to our plan, the other speaks to a clock. That clock is the part I ask you to understand clearly. To lift this restriction FEMA requires three consecutive years of clean monitoring and a sustained low error rate across multiple testing cycles. And by federal design, those conditions cannot be met in months, no matter how fast or how well we perform. So, the relevant question this morning is not whether the restriction is lifted, it is whether the corrective action within our control are being done. They are. And let me be concrete our timekeeping procedures and pay period audits have been running since 2023. Our grants management staff completed federal grants management course certification last August. Quarterly internal audits across transactions, procurement, travel, and disbursements have been live since the middle of last year. And in December, the Office of the Chief of Staff, not my office alone, stood up a grants monitoring committee, placing accountability above the agency that drew the original findings. We have named authorizing officials and certifying officers, closing the certification gap the audit identified. None of this happened in isolation. The plan FEMA approved was built line by line with FEMA. Their specialists offered dozens of specific recommendations, and our integrated matrix documents our response to each. When we needed more time, FEMA granted a 90 day extension and reaffirmed its technical assistance. This is not the posture of a regulator that has given up on us, it is the posture of a partner rebuilding trust alongside us and I would offer this committee this. The audit found real weaknesses, and we have not minimized a single one. But the honest measure of this government is not the existence of findings, it is what we have done since. The documentation is complete, the controls are operating, and the federal relationship is active and collaborative. And we welcome your oversight because it holds us to exactly the standard our island deserves. May God continue to protect this island, guide our work, bless our community. Si Yu'us Ma'åse', I welcome your questions.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much, Esther. Is anyone else going to have any statement to the committee? No? Okay, so let me go ahead and just, we're going to just jump right into the question and answer portion of the oversight beginning with myself and then the committee members. And I'd like to also welcome to, uh, to our hearing today, um, Senator Chris Duenas. Senator, thank you so much for being with us today and thank you for your continued leadership as Chairman of the finance committee of this Guam legislature. Again, colleagues, you will each have five minutes, but not including the responses that are provided by members of the panel. And I'm just going to go ahead and just jump in if I can. And let me just start with this a letter signed off by the Governor of Guam dated January 8th, 2026 permanently transferred the OCD administrator to the Department of Public Works. On April 17th, 2026, the governor's office rescinded its January 8th letter. Then a letter from the Governor dated May 11th, 2026 rescinded the Governor's October 24th, 2025 detailed assignment of the HSA as the acting OCD administrator. The committee was provided a copy of the section of the Government of Guam Personnel Rules and Regulations prohibiting an employee in an unclassified position or an individual employed under a contract from being detailed to a position in the classified service. The OCD administrator is a position in the classified service. So, for the record, if you can help us understand who is the Office of Civil Defense Administrator or otherwise in charge of the Office of Civil Defense.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, thank you for that question. So, sir, I am in charge of the Office of Civil Defense, first the Guam, the Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense, and I am not the Administrator. However, the governor has issued the guidance that I am in charge of the agency.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, thank you. The RACI matrix that your office submitted to this committee on May 19th, of 2026, this was eight days after the Governor rescinded your detail. She still listed you as OCD administrator alongside Mr. Charles Esteves, who has, for the record, been indicted in local court. Can you explain why that document was submitted with those names and who specifically authorized its submission again for this particular issue?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Yes, sir. At the time this document was created, sir, we were still under the direction that the Administrator, who was Mr. Esteves, was going to retain his title as Administrator. However, his presence is still unknown at the Office of Civil Defense. You know, the work still has to be done, Senator, so we're still here and we're doing the work that needs to be done because, you know, work stoppage is not going to do anyone any good. So the work continues.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you. During your OHS/OCD oversight hearing this past February 2nd, 2026, agency leadership informed this committee that FEMA's approval of its corrective action plan on January 21st, of 2026, demonstrated federal confidence in its commitment to improvement. What specifically triggered the federal entity to place all grants on restrictive drawdowns status effective May 12th, 2026, just a little over three months after approving Guam's corrective action plan? Now, I'll say this that the CAP approval letter says FEMA had confidence in your commitment, but not your compliance.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, there could be a number of reasons why FEMA issued the letter of restrictive drawdowns. And I have to add that a restrictive drawdown is a cash management control and reimbursement on documentation, not a new finding, and it does not de-obligate funds or assert new violations. I will, however, add that we have always been on a restrictive drawdown since taking office in 2023. And so this is nothing new to the Guam Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense, this is the way we have been operating on the grants that we have been awarded and I can my grants manager, who Ms. Lucy Perez, she can provide more detail on that process.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Yeah, I'm not looking for the detail here, and we may ask that in a second, but just trying to understand the action from the federal government. Let me just, if I can then, and if you can keep it brief, but can you identify even one of the 12 CAP findings that FEMA has certified as fully resolved?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: So there are several areas of that CAP plan that FEMA has offered advice for us to work on. We have submitted our completed CAP plan and it is under review by FEMA right now. In the late, in the last week of August, they will be here to conduct an in person review and it will be then when we know whether or not our actions taken that are identified in that corrective action plan have been resolved.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: So, so to date, none, you have no confirmation if any single one of those has been.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Yes, we do, sir. I understand you have a copy of the, our corrective action plan.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: I do. So, I mean, but for the record, can you tell us how many of that, the 12 points, have you guys actually fully resolved?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Okay. Well, to start off with, sir, we have some standard operating procedures that have been already in place that FEMA has reviewed and has approved. We also have our timekeeping procedures. We also have quarterly reviews. What we have now that we didn't have then is we now have a financial management system accountability in place that my finance team lead, Mr. Cabana, has put together and so that is something that was not present when those audits had occurred. But we have that in place right now to track and trace every single federal dollar that was awarded to the Office of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense. And the grants that were mentioned in that memo that you had just read, we have what we now have is a database tracking all the money that's attached to those grants, and Mr. Cabana can speak in detail of which grants you would like to know about.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: So you've named three. So, so far, three?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Go ahead, Ms. Lucy.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: So, your question about in the audit findings, can we name some that have been completed? I would point over to finding 2023-02, which deals with the timesheet. When you look at 2.2, 2.3 and even 2.1 we've gone through that process And in our meetings with the grants management team from FEMA, they've accepted that. So that's one of the findings. And then the second one will be findings 2023-03 in terms of 3.3 training finance personnel on CFR 200 requirements. We've completed that, sir, also by ensuring, and this happened last August, and there's going to be a refresher coming up in the summer on individuals that are working with grants to take the FEMA grants management monitoring training, which was done online. It was three hours every day for about six weeks. The individuals that took the training had to also take a test at the end of the course just to ensure there's understanding. So that's just a couple of the findings that we've been working on that we know that FEMA is happy with and it's in that chart where it specifically says that the action appears to address the recommendations. And we've also, to back that up, ensured that there are SOPs, which by the way is voluminous, but I did provide it on a flash drive to staff so that if you wish to go back later on and review it, it's there, and it's the same documents that you have on that flash drive, it's the same documents that FEMA has.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, so for the record, I'm looking for a single number. How many, and right now I've heard four of the 12 items have been completed at this point. Is that where we're at now?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: If I may, sir. So those are four. But in addition to the four, if I may, finding 2023-05 regards salary changes or salary charges. This is regarding the mythology that needed to happen, and that's actually completed says there are no changes required, and that we have provided monthly salary reviews continuous since May of 2025. In addition to that, finding 2023-12, which is budget monitoring, we have a grant monitoring committee that was established by the Office of the Chief of Staff, and that was established in December of 2025 and our first meeting was held on December 10th, 2025. So, yes, sir, I'm counting four of those 12 have already been approved and satisfied according to FEMA's review.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you, Esther. Now, the corrective action plan, again, approved in January 2026, again, includes implementation of quarterly internal audits. I think you've talked about that this morning. Again, designed to review budget adherence and detect any deviations. So, between the release of the 2023 FEMA initiated audit and January of 2026, what extent did the government of Guam implement internal audits for one or more of the findings? And what technical assistance from FEMA, if any, was sought by your office to ensure local efforts aligned with federal expectations? Do you have any internal audits at all? At least, up with one.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: If I may speak, Senator.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Yes, my name is… We do have some. The last internal audit we had was a couple of years ago with our OPA and also DOA, they came up with internal audits. That was the last audit that they had. During the course of that review, right now we are implementing policies or procedures as far as how to do a better control on all our expenditures. So we haven't had recently other than the last couple of years ago.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, so I think you mentioned the financial or finding 2023-03. Again, mandatory training for finance personnel on specific CFR requirements, including the SOP, including the approval process. Again, you committed to ensuring follow up staff training to address the audit findings, I think we talked a little bit about it today. So, recognizing none of 10 filled positions identified in your staffing pattern for FY 2027 are finance specific positions, which members of your staff outside of Mr. Cabana are engaged in the mandatory training for finance personnel? And what support, if any, have been offered or requested of other Government of Guam entities to include DOA, BBMR, and the Office of Public Accountability?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you for that question, Senator. So, as mentioned earlier, we had our finance team take the fundamentals of grants management training back in August of 2025, and we are now just pending the next scheduled training for the 2026 timeframe. But may I also answer your question regarding what kind of internal audits have we been performing in addition to what Mr. Cabana…so we actually have recurring quarterly internal audits, and we have been doing that since May, August timeframe of 2025, and this includes transactions, procurement, travel disbursements, and salary allocation. In audits above our agency, sir, we, as I said before, that we have a grants monitoring committee established by the Chief of Staff. We also have implemented authorizing officials and certifying officers, they have been formally designated. And this is a structural fix to the certification gap that was in finding 2023-1, and then our matrix itself reinforces the segregation of duties because it lists different positions.

For example, the HSA, the Civil Defense Administrator, the GRO Director, the CAP Monitor, and the Finance, each of them carry distinct roles and this is also in response to the finding 2023-03 and 2023-07. So, those are some of the measures and some of the efforts that we have been implementing since the Premier audit in the 2023 Premier audit.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: So, but then again, in terms of staffing, you have, I know Joe's doing, but there's none of the 10 are finance people, no technical assistance. Is DOA, BBMR, anyone offering up any of that?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: If I may speak, Senator, again, on the Homeland, we don't have, per se, someone that's handling the fiscal side and that's why I took over as far as assisting, as far as making sure that we are all in compliance with our audit. So I'm the one that's handling the fiscal side of the homeland as well.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, yeah, I mean, this is something publicly that I made mention on numerous occasions that the executive branch should be putting, based on this audit, based on the FEMA action, we should be putting people in at least one, I'm a little surprised, but let me just move on. But again, trying to encourage the executive branch to shore up some of the finance side of your house. I know Joe's there, I'm not saying, I'm not diminishing your role, Joe, but you need help too.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: I was tasked by the front office in February to assist them, and that's what I'm doing right now.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, gotcha. Thank you so much. Okay, now going back to the RACI matrix, it shows DOA listed as consulted for actions. Can you provide, I mean, if you can, back to this committee, just if you write this down, can you provide documentation of any formal meeting, correspondence, or technical engagement with DOA on these items, and if the LD 705 was completed in August 2025, why is the follow up training for FY2026 still listed as pending in a document that was submitted to this committee in May of 2026? If you can get that in writing, I would prefer back to this committee relative to that. Okay? Let me move on to the procurement procedures. Again, finding 2023-06 again requires you to provide training sessions for the updated procurement SOPs and you mentioned this morning about the GFMIS functionality and to emphasize compliance with grants. Can you tell us this morning what portion of your staff have completed one or more of the four procurement modules of procurement basic training and is any of the personnel who are required has not received the procurement training engaged in any procurement in violation of our procurement training policy? So, again, has anyone on the team completed one or more of the modules for procurement?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Yes, sir. There are two members at this table who have completed the grants management training, and there were several others, but those individuals are no longer assigned to the Office of Homeland Security.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, so the two on the table, have you all completed one or all four procurement modules?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: One and Mr. Cabana probably has five.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: One and one.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: One, yes, yes, I mean one.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, thank you. Let me, I have one, two, just a couple more questions, and then I'll turn this over to the committee, and before I go any further, let me just recognize. Or welcome Senator Sabina Perez. Thank you for being with us this morning. Finding this is on travel, undocumented travel expenses. This is finding 2023-08. Again, SOP for travel documentation. Based on the May 7th, 2025 letter from FEMA to the Government of Guam, it found that your per diem for the 2021 Pacific Executive Leadership Program was provided to attendees by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Accordingly, your request for per diem reimbursement was determined to be duplicative. Now, I'm just going to be very blunt. Did you knowingly seek to be reimbursed twice for the same per diem request? And are there any other instances of at least maybe during the last 24 months where FEMA similarly questioned and ultimately denied any travel related funding requests?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, this was done way before we came on board, but I am happy to report that no travel has been executed or executed since we have been taking over the grants management. So, sir, I'm not certain if the people who were administering or overseeing the travel portion were aware that they were submitting for duplicate.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Senator. And for the travel, I just want to clarify I'm sorry, Lucy. So, for example, HSGP we’ve never had any travel denied. As a matter of fact, that's one of the strictest criteria because before any travel authorization can be written up, we must go back to our grantor and in my case, for Homeland Security it's Mr. Mitchell and we have to justify it's an eight page document. And only when we get the approval letter would BBMR even work on the TA. So, I can say that from 2023 forward, we have a process, it is followed and for the EMPG side, for the ones that I did have oversight over, that also was documented very well and we worked with FEMA to ensure that trainings or conferences that were sponsored by FEMA, we had a process.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, thank you, Lucy. Okay, OPA report number 2024-04 found that your agency owes 8.4 million dollars to the general fund, recognizing that the general fund has been paying for your operating costs. They also found that the general fund paid 71.3 million dollars in expenditures under the Office of Homeland Security, Civil Defense Operations, FEMA Recovery, and Tsunami Grant programs, and was only reimbursed 62.9 million dollars by FEMA. Of the 8.4 million dollars, 7.8 million was for operations under the EMPG and HSGP that have yet to be reimbursed by FEMA. It's these over expenditures, or these over expenditures supporting DOA's internal audit section findings on the lack of monitoring budgets and system controls, and we discussed these same findings initially in January of last year. So again, I'll ask. What portion of the 8.4 million in general fund expenditures has since been reimbursed by FEMA?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: We received out of the 8.4 million we received from FEMA based on the information that we gathered, it's about half a million dollars. For what we've seen, as far as the others that were not authorized or unallowable I haven't got the detailed information on that, Senator.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: So, Joe, half a million from 8.4?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: 8.4 yes. We're still pending right now as far as reviewing. I know there are other grants on the EMPG as well and the HSGP that are being reviewed and going through the process as well.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, and based on a May 7, 2025 FEMA letter informing the Government of Guam that the agency, federal agency, authorized just 280,000 out of 1.181 million worth of claims submitted by the local government, did FEMA authorize additional claims subsequent to their May 2025 response to the Government of Guam's drawdown request? And if so, how much more in local expenditures were approved by FEMA? Is it just a half million dollar amount, is all that they approved?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: I'm sorry, can you repeat that again, Senator?

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, this is FEMA told you all back in May of last year, that they only authorized 280,000 dollars out of 1.1 million worth of claims that you submitted. Did they authorize any additional claims, subsequent to their May 2025 response to the Government of Guam’s drawdown request and if so, how much more in local expenditures were approved by FEMA?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: The date of the letter that you're reviewing once again?

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: May 7, 2025.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: All right. So, May 7, 2025, we did receive, or the Chief of Staff and the HSA did receive a letter from FEMA, and this is what we've been working on, on what they approved for the EMPG grant for 2020. So, what was approved final amount to draw down was 280,909.66 and that is correct. For the HSGP section of 2020, they were looking at approximately 30,000 dollars and this is looking at expenses that occurred within the period of performance. We are currently working on 22 HSGP in getting those expenses reviewed and getting reimbursed. For the 23 EMPG, we are working first on insuring that our work plan gets approved, and then all expenses which Mr. Cabana has already tracked will be able to submit for reimbursement to the grantor. So the process is we get all the invoices, we get all the timesheets, we send it to our grantor, our grantor takes a look at it. When they approve it, they send us a letter, we send it over to the federal program section at DOA, and we set up a date and time of when that window will be open, and then that individual or the position will be able to go in and draw down that amount.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, so let me just stick with that then. So, that same letter so, what funding source did this government use to cover the difference of 840,000 dollars or the adjusted unauthorized claim amount?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, I'm sorry, but we can't answer that question.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: We don't have any control over, you know, we don't manhandle our funds, and we rely strictly on BBMR and DOA to help us with our finances.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you, Esther, for that.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: But, Senator, if I may, also, but we can, I can explain as far as the other grants, which is still pending from FEMA which is the 23 MPG 24 and 25. Although we incurred some expenditures on these grants, we're just waiting for FEMA to award us a letter pending some narrative corrections on these grants. The 23 is ready to be released. We're just waiting for the word from them and due to the shutdown with most recently by FEMA, they have not, I think they just opened a couple weeks ago. To start, then we received a letter from them, but I can justify the expenditures which is on these grants, so we're just spending reimbursements on these grants.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you. At this time, I'll go ahead and turn it over to questions from the panel, and I'll go ahead and speak, or I'll turn the mic over to the Vice Chair of this Committee and the Vice Speaker of this Legislature, Senator Ada you're recognized for five minutes.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you for the panel for being here this morning. Perhaps just a couple of questions and concerns as well. So, how's Homeland Security and Civil Defense operating currently?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, we're operating on a daily basis with the staff that we do have on board. And luckily, we have some experienced staff members on board, and the work still needs to get done. So, whoever has the skill sets to conduct and make that, conduct that task willingly does it and will pick up wherever we need to.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Especially with the restriction on drawdowns, correct? You know, and I'm sure that perhaps funding is coming from the general fund to keep the operations going. Was there a complete turnover of staff up in Homeland Security, Office of Civil Defense, or how are we remedying what the situation was in the past to how we're moving forward today?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, I would say yes. There was a complete turnover of staff, and we still have a staff shortage. But thankfully, you know, on the job training has given us a lot of experience, and with a lot of consulting with FEMA, we're able to conduct and we're able to complete the tasks with a lot of guidance and if we need additional help or additional time, we're not shy to ask and every time we ask, our partners at FEMA are willing to give us whatever time we need to submit reports, to look at grants, to look at open windows and really, we've been functioning with the staff that we do have.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And what is the current condition of the facilities? Where have upgrades been made to restrooms, the backup generator, the equipment, vehicles, things of that nature?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, I'm happy to report that the Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense is fully functional. We have addressed the issues, the sewer leakage, the elevator that was inoperable, the air conditioning system, the water, our water cooling system that also provides cooling to one of the air conditioning systems in one of the front main buildings. We have addressed every single item on the to fix list, and the office is fully functional. And it's great that it was because we were definitely prepared when Super Typhoon Sinlaku came around. Because had the office been in the same condition it was before we got it up to it is now, it would have been difficult to perform the duties of our response and recovery.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Yeah, and you know, we're listening to the National Weather Service, and you know, they're predicting more storms coming this way throughout the remaining of the year. So, hopefully that, you know, the operations of Homeland Security and Civil Defense doesn't continue to be hampered, and that it continues to build upon what platform you guys have already developed and how you're moving forward. I think that are there issues with grant funding and other fundings? Absolutely. I think what the corrective action plan that's going forward and what you guys are doing to implement it and strengthen the securities within Homeland Security and Civil Defense that will make the difference between how I guess FEMA would turn around to continue to work with you. As long as our island and our people are not vulnerable to storms, because the lack of personnel or the lack of or the inactions of Homeland Security and Civil Defense due to the issues. I don't think that would be acceptable. So we just got to keep trying to work harder to ensure that we continue to improve. Is this going to be the end? Absolutely not. But I think that we can just continue to move forward and get these things addressed soon as possible, and with the personnel that you do have, hopefully, Mr. Cabana will be able to work out all those financial issues and work with the audits and streamline what processes need to be done, stricter control measures and expenditures and things of that nature. I think we'll be okay. But thank you for you guys being here this morning.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you sir, and if I may just add a period or an exclamation point to your statement. Thank you very much. That's the pat on the back that we don't normally get. For everything that we do, we do many things in silence, but to get that pat on the back is powerful. So, you know, it's amazing what can be done when nobody cares who gets credit for it.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Exactly.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: It's amazing what a disaster can do to people who are responsible for managing emergencies and because that's the beauty of our culture everyone comes together, there's…

nobody cares what happens in the past, everyone is focused on the here and now and the recovery. So disaster or no disaster, blue skies or gray skies, Guam's emergency management is top notch, they are an elite force is what I can say, because they care nothing about their own personal safety but the safety of the people of Guam, their families and they want resolution as soon as possible so they will do whatever it takes to protect. So thank you again Vice Speaker, really appreciate that. But I submit to you we are prepared and we'll be prepared regardless of the situation, regardless of the disaster. Your emergency management recovery response folks are prepared and are ready for anything that comes our way.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you, thank you ma'am. *Vice…* Yes.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD:

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada:

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Vice Speaker, I also as not only as personnel of Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense, but as an ESF, an emergency support function, I want to formally thank you and everyone that has supported us. It hasn't just been our team but also the team from BBMR. They have been lock step next to us, the team from DOA, GSA, the CPO, the Chief Procurement Officer and her team, the Deputy and their Director, their payroll, they have been working with us side by side. And I tell you, Sinlaku was your perfect example of how people got together, individuals got together, even the ESFs from other agencies. We all got together and said we have a mission, we have a task and that's to protect, provide the people of Guam which includes our family, right? So definitely thank you very much and that I know, those words would go very good for them also.

Vice Chairman/Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you Ms. Lucy. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much Vice Speaker. Senator Duenas, I'll turn the mic over to you, you have five minutes.

Senator Chris Duenas: Si Yu'os ma'åse', Mr. Chair, and thank you to the panel for being here. I'm going to direct the questions towards the May 12, 2026 letter addressed from FEMA to the Chief of Staff. First of all, Joe, how long have you been and are you on what do you call that? Are you assigned to civil defense and where do you come from?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Excuse me. Thank you, Senator. I'm actually the Guam Recovery Director who's handling all the FEMA grants under the public assistance grants that I'm handling. However, because of my experience, I volunteer to assist and also with the front office to assist Homeland and be able to look into all the financials of Homeland and the fiscal side.

Senator Chris Duenas: How long have you been there been there?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: I've been there since working for Homeland, I started in 2023, January 2023.

Senator Chris Duenas: So in directing my questions from here and the concern I have is let's start from the beginning. When did the corrective action plan start in terms of the efforts based on the findings?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you, senator, for that question. The action plan started shortly after the audit was completed, the 2023 audit conducted by Premier Group. And I believe we all started to put that plan together in August of 2023.

Senator Chris Duenas: The reason why I do that is because this May 12, 2026 letter is notification that FEMA Region 9 is hereby notifying the Government of Guam effective immediately, all federal grants awarded by FEMA Region 9, Government of Guam, are being placed on restrictive drawdown status, and the background rationale is what I want to lead to and I want to find out what was, why this jumped off the page. Since 2019, this is the background rationale, the Emergency Management Homeland Security Program awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted from 2016 to 2018 with costs less than 5 percent of obligated EMPG funding, the 2023 Premier Group identified 40 million in questioning costs. Where are we in whittling down the 40 million on question costs?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you, Senator. That's a two part question. May I make a correction on when the corrective action plan was started? So we have a letter here that was addressed to the Premier Group, and we started our corrective action plan on April 5th, 2024.

Senator Chris Duenas: Okay.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: That's to answer the first part of your question, sir, and Mr. Joe Cabana can probably answer the second part of your question. Sir.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Thank you, Senator. Yes, as far as the findings that we had during the course of the Premier Audit, currently right now, a big part of those findings is related to the public assistance grants, but a big part of that also is related to one of the events that we are currently right now being reviewed and working with our FEMA in getting those documents and also getting information. So we are very successful in that because One of our recipients are, is getting all the documents for us for additional documentation for FEMA, so they can be able to, to finalize that review.

Senator Chris Duenas: What amount of the identified 40 million has been justified to date?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: For the other grants, on the EMPG and the and the HSGP grants, we're still pulling out documents in getting those to justify those expenditures, as far as the public assistance grants were, like I said, earlier, is one of our sub recipients are giving that information, and that's close to about maybe 20 million, 20, 21 million dollars that we're already pulling out of the documents and being reviewed on public assistance.

Senator Chris Duenas: But none of that 40 million to date has been recovered?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: The only ones that were recovered during that, like I said earlier, was the 400 some thousand dollars that we received so far from, from FEMA on the EMPG and on the HSGP. As far as what was the reason for those other costs that are not being reimbursed, I don't have more information in that as far as why they were denied or deobligated from us.

Senator Chris Duenas: And of the 40 million, about half have documentation being reviewed currently?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: About half, right. Actually, we have all the documentation. We have not gone in and reviewed on the others, you know, the EMPG and HSGP also. We have just maybe additional, more information from Homeland would be able to get those numbers or documents to FEMA so they can review that, but today we have not received anything from FEMA, any additional reimbursements.

Senator Chris Duenas: Esther, Joe says he's been there since 2023. What other assistance have you received from BBMR, DOA, or the governor's office in terms of detailed appointments with fiscal capabilities to reconcile these issues?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, not a matter or in the form of detail, but in the form of guidance and advice. Pick up the phone, write an email, send the questions directly to our, we have a financial analyst that's assigned specifically to Homeland Security, and that is Ken Guerrero. And we consult and confer, and, and we do whatever we can with him so that's on a regular basis. And then with the Department of Administration, it's also the same procedure. Regarding federal grants, we, we communicate with, of course, Mr. Birn, and then our analyst that we that we conduct business with on a regular basis is Christina Ilagan, and so we have regular people assigned people at both BBMR and DOA to help us get through the eaches and the rough spots when we don't understand or we need help with managing our grants.

Senator Chris Duenas: Other than Joe, in your time at the helm have you ever had an Administrative Services Officer?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: So sir there was an administrative services officer when I came on board in June of 2023. So what you see here is the class of 2023 right here at your table. And there was an administrative services officer when I came on board. Unfortunately, we do not have an administrative services officer right now assigned to us.

Senator Chris Duenas: You know Esther, I'm just gonna make this point and I'm not gonna put it on your shoulders, but I've run agencies as small as three, three and a half million dollars of annual appropriations and we have an ASO. I mean, in a time when we're trying to recover or at least justify 40 million dollars of question costs so that we don't get left on the hook for it, and at a time right now when this really is strictly here, three years of compliance monitoring before we even see the light of day, I'm sorry, but I find that unacceptable. I think that you should, after today, get an ASO. Somebody who's going to definitely be the point person to nag DOA and BBMR to ensure that you accelerate this timeline.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, I couldn't agree with you more and as I said earlier, it's amazing what people will do to respond to things that are urgent. And right now, my all-purpose person is Ms. Lucy, who is sitting to my left, and she's also our grants manager. And she handles the majority of the ASO work at Homeland, in conjunction, of course, with Mr. Cabana's finance team that is in place down at Homeland. And this is how we get the day to day business done, Senator and it's working so far, but we're going to continue to work and we're going to continue to do what we need to do to satisfy the requirements and to do our job so that it's worthy for the people of Guam.

Senator Chris Duenas: Thank you, Esther. It says in the background and rationale stated in the May 12, 2026 letter in 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds. Is that public information?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, that news was public information, and I believe that, that was in the paper out on social media. So if you're asking that, so yes, sir, I believe that, that is public information.

Senator Chris Duenas: Several members?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Yes sir.

Senator Chris Duenas: Okay thank you. I just, the reason why I bring this up once again the importance of this, and I, I do commend you for the due diligence that's being applied at this point in time but just for the record, requirements to lift restrictions the restrictive drawdown status will remain in effect until the following conditions are met. Bullet point one all corrective actions and questioned costs from 2023 Premier Group audit are fully resolved. All areas of noncompliance for FEMA monitoring are fully resolved. Three consecutive years of enhanced monitoring and completed with no findings. And the fourth bullet point here is to Validate as You Go, VAYGo improper payment error rate is reduced to 1.5% or less over three consecutive testing cycles. FEMA will provide written confirmation once these requirements have been satisfied and will then consider removing restrictive data and status. I just draw the attention, Ms. Esther, because it's more than just the aforementioned, at least what I heard during the opening statement of the consecutive years, three consecutive years of enhanced monitoring, pretty comprehensive and so we'll continue to provide whatever assistance we can from the Office of Finance and Budget. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much, Senator Duenas. Senator Perez, you're recognized for five minutes on this issue. Thank you.

Senator Sabina Perez: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good morning to the panel here today. So yeah, I'm just going through these documents for the first time, and so I'm seeing, I'll just, basically my questions will be past and, you know, the current and future efforts. So in going, I guess, you know, my colleagues pointed out the questioned costs and that's been public since the audits have come out. And so one of them was in regards to personnel, and in the letter that's provided to the committee, it states that of the 1.1 million claims, this was a May 7, 2025 letter, that only 200, of the 1.1 million dollars claimed by Guam

Homeland Security, only 280,000 was actually awarded. And so it states that the documentation was lacking, there was a system of internal controls, needs to provide reasonable assurance that charges are accurate. And so I noticed in your corrective action, which was approved in January of 2026, looking at it, it states that the methodology for, it looks like, I believe, if you can brief me on what is the…what are you doing to address this, I guess, issue with the documentation of reimbursement of payroll?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: So for…Senator, Lucy Perez, for payroll and for all personnel costs, and I'm happy to report that as recently as our meeting with FEMA regarding our EMPG side of the house, which has majority of our personnel costs at 6:30 in the morning, Friday the 13th, we were, I mean, Friday the 12th, they were very happy on how we, what steps we took to fix this problem. So the step actually started on April 2024, I believe was the date the HSA gave, where a new timesheet was created. And in that timesheet, it not only listed the personnel, their salary, their annual salary, but also what grants that their time would be allocated to. And what it did was it also gave out a percentage. And then every pay period, when the personnel works on a grant-- for example, Homeland Security, if you had one personnel who got paid 50 percent from the Homeland Security grant and 50 percent from the emergency management grant, they would have to identify each day and then the hour time frame, which grant, and then under which grant, what project, and then there was a description side, and no longer are the personnel allowed to just put, oh, I worked on HSGP 22. That gets rejected. It goes back and it says, what did you do? I worked on project one. Well, show me what you did in project one. If project one said, you know, enhancing cybersecurity, what did you do to enhance cybersecurity? So once that's all identified, the employee has to sign off on their own timesheet. I know everyone does that, but that really needed to happen so that the employee themselves also were held responsible and they knew what their job roles were. Came over to the finance team, the payroll team, which is comprised of a payroll entry clerk, myself, the HSA, and Mr. Cabana. And we take a look at it. Mr. Cabana and I even go in and look at systems, the GFMIS system, to see if there's money still on the grant that they're identifying. And so it's ready, so when that payroll is completed, when the employee's paid and payroll processes their labor distribution costs, we take that, we get ready, we attach it to the timesheet, and when called upon, then we submit over to our grantor. So that's one of the many steps that we've taken to ensure that that finding is addressed and corrected.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, if I may, I can also add on to that. So, what we have in place now that did not exist then is we have authorizing officials and certifying officers who sign off on these timesheets, and they are the only ones authorized to do so. So, we actually have an appointment letter that's provided to the Department of Administration and BBMR. The implied task is if you don't see a signature on one of these people who are authorized to certify or to sign off, then reject it. But it never leaves Homeland Security without an approving officer's signature or the certifying officer's signature. So those are just some examples, or an example, of an internal control measure that we had to implement immediately. That was at the recommendation of FEMA, and we took heed to it right away, and we've been consistent in ensuring that timesheets and the work that's done with it are associated with what the grants allow.

Senator Sabina Perez: Joe, did you want to add to that?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Yes, thank you, Senator. Yes, we do, like the HSA had mentioned, we do have a better control as far as tracking numbers through our FMIS system, as well as to manual tracking, because as you know, our FMIS does not record all the information by the end of each month. So we do also track it by manually as well to make sure that we have all the numbers are there and make sure within the perimeter as far as what's being obligated and what was awarded.

Senator Sabina Perez: So there's no coordination with the federal grants you're getting in the FMIS system that we have in the government? Is there, that's not in our system?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: There is the grants management within the FMIS systems, yes. But we also-- for me, I like to track it manually as well, because we—you know, our agency knows what we spent, each payroll, and also what we provide. It's when we submit our payments, our invoices. So I like to track it sort of manually. So for me, I would rather-- I want to know make sure where we're at as far as the funding source and how much expenditure we have to date.

Senator Sabina Perez: When will you be assured that the FMIS system is running accurately?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: For me, compared to the AS400, I work a lot better with the new FMIS. It's giving me a better information and better tracking as well.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, thank you. The other thing that I'm reading is the restrictive drawdown on FEMA grants, and it lists a whole bunch of grants here in one of the letters it was dated May 12, 2026. And so some of the grants, so I'll just read it so the public knows. Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Grant, Emergency Management Performance Grants, Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant, Emergency Operations Centers, and that's for preparedness. And there's a whole bunch for mitigation, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Community Assistance Program, Cooperating Technical Partners, Earthquake Consortium, and State Support Flood Mitigation Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, National Dam Safety, Predisaster Mitigation, and then there's recovery grants, crisis counseling, disaster case, fire management, and public assistance. Are these all the grants that you manage, or are there others outside of this?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator, no, these are not all the grants that we manage. Out of this list here, I can actually tell you there are five that are mentioned in here specifically. Another grant that we also manage is Homeland Security grants, which is not listed as one of the grants to be on restrictive drawdown. In addition to that, we also have what we call the tsunami…a Tsunami Readiness grant, and we manage that as well. So the list is not all inclusive, but there are at least five grants that are mentioned on this list that we manage, in addition to the other two that I just mentioned.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, and so the restrictive drawdown, does that delay reimbursements to the agencies that request or need utilize the funding?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Senator to answer your question no it does not delay. What it is, is it's a control measure used by FEMA to ensure that what we're doing is actually reimbursable and allowable. So we've been under a restrictive drawdown since the class of 23 has been in place. So it's nothing new to what we're doing. And like Ms. Lucy had mentioned earlier, for example, the Homeland Security grants, if we want to charge anything to any of the investment justifications in that grant, Ms. Lucy has to contact our grants management, or our grants manager, who manages Homeland Security grants. She has to provide a legitimate justification as to why we are asking to use the money for this particular project. And then his name is Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell has to actually put in writing that he approves the use of funds for, let's say, training or let's say, a project that we want to, or personnel. So that is just one of the ways we have been practicing just across grants, and that's just specific to Homeland Security grants. With our emergency management grants, we are in constant communication with the EMPG folks who help us go through each of the investment justifications and the procedure is similar. However, we don't…we don't unilaterally just make a decision to use any of the grant funding without first conferring and consulting with our management teams, both in the emergency management and Homeland Security. And in addition to that, with public assistance, hazard mitigation, our tsunami grants. So we are in very close contact. It's all about relationships, Senator. We have established really good relationships with our FEMA grants division, both for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and then in addition to that, to include public assistance and the tsunami grant program and our hazard mitigation program.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, so basically, what you're saying is it's approved before you spend the money. It's approved through the FEMA.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: That is correct. From 2023 forward.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, and so we hear about delay in funding or FEMA reimbursements, and so what do you attribute that to?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: On our part, if there's any delay in reimbursements, it's…it's on us. It's probably either documentation that was not submitted or the documentation submitted did not pass muster. So, for example, personnel costs which you brought up. If I had submitted a bunch of timesheets for four pay periods and I didn't identify each timesheet to a specific grant, to a specific project with specific description, it will get bounced back. And so that's the time. That's what will be the delay. But once FEMA approves the reimbursement, it's a matter of five business days, and sometimes even shorter, because as soon as they give us the letter authorizing federal programs to download the amount, it happens. So, unfortunately, it's on us, and that's why we've improved process, and we're working towards making sure that anything that happens in the future will be better.

Senator Sabina Perez: So the corrective action that was approved, does it address all the lack of documentation for these FEMA reimbursements and if you can highlight which of these part of the corrective action plan does that and maybe provide an example to the committee.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you for that question Senator. For the majority of those Senator it involves the Emergency Management Performance grants and the Homeland Security.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, and so as far as a corrective action, so Lucy was saying that we don't get reimbursed sometimes because the documentation is inadequate, and so what in this correction active plan addresses that lack of documentation?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: That will be findings 2023-02 that deals with the timesheets, so in there it identified what the audit found, and what the implementation and what the agency is doing. Again, SOP, et cetera.

Senator Sabina Perez: Oh yeah, I understand you're doing a great job. It looks like you have it covered as far as personnel, but is there anything else that is at risk of not being reimbursed besides personnel costs in the reimbursement that you see?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: I would say based on all the grants that I've read, if it's not written into the grant, it would be for basic operations, maintenance costs. So, for example operations, maintenance costs. So, for example, generator maintenance, elevator maintenance, fuel tank storage maintenance, vehicle maintenance. Those are some of the items that are not, may or may not be covered in the grant if it's not written in. If it is written in the grant and is an approved, then there shouldn't be an issue. But I do have to say also that what I've noticed in grants moving forward is a lot of the maintenance costs is being removed. They're putting it on the state or the territory to take care of that. And the monies, though, are being put into projects, which is right. So if you're gonna have a project to improve your emergency operations center, then it's taking maybe those maintenance costs and putting it towards the EOC.

Senator Sabina Perez: So does that mean the state has to find the funding for that?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, ma'am, which is why we submit a budget request, a budget digest, and we are currently working with OFB in answering some of their questions. And in that budget digest, you would see my maintenance costs or our maintenance costs. I'm sorry. I'm protective of my things that I need to fix.

Senator Sabina Perez: No, I appreciate your diligence. Okay, in regards to, so like, I mean, I'm hearing the mayor's GPA hasn't been reimbursed for significant amounts. What is the status? GPA probably controls their own reimbursement, is that correct? Or does the Office of Homeland?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Thank you, excuse me. Thank you, Senator, again for that question. If it relates to the public assistance grants that was already being awarded by FEMA, because in the past, a lot of our concerns or our challenges are documentation. So if they don't submit documentation for reimbursements, then, you know, we are under public assistance we try and assist our subrecipients to see what documentations need to be submitted. So our biggest challenge is our documentation that they have not, you know, that they can’t either provide documentation for the reimbursement request or it's just no information from them. But we are communicating together with the POC as well as the respective directors or, or mayors to be able to provide us those documents. But we have the money it's just to give us all the documentation and then they'll get the reimbursements.

Senator Sabina Perez: So you're waiting for the documentation?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Documentation is our biggest challenge in these.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, and then in regards to planning for future disasters, and I'm thinking specifically, say, cybersecurity, has your agency been doing the market research, looking at the cost of preventing these kinds of attacks, as well as our traditional disasters. Yeah, what is your plan for that in regards to procurement?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Thank you, Senator. That's a very pointed question. And yes, ma'am, we are…we are working very closely with the Office of Technology to maintain, sustain, and develop further cybersecurity plans. We currently have a island wide cybersecurity plan that will expire, I believe, at the end of this year, needs renewing, and we think of everything. We think of, you know, the, and just now we're getting a deluge of cyber threats. We work very closely with the FBI, with NCIES, with SISA to work collaboratively so that we could all be in sync with any threats that we need to be aware of. And I think our greatest challenge is updating and providing the necessary software to protect our technological infrastructure. What we've done is we've grown in the government, but I think our growth in the government has outpaced OTECH's ability and capability to provide adequate cybersecurity protection to our government of Guam systems. With the Office of Homeland Security we work in conjunction with the Office of Technology to come up with innovative ways on how we can build the workforce, how we can provide the necessary media, how we can be more innovative in thinking about cybersecurity. And then, we also, you can't forget that there's something called artificial intelligence that seems to just weave its way around cybersecurity. And our greatest challenge is identifying the workforce to counter that. We have antiquated systems, and I'll say this for myself an antiquated person on board that needs to get in front of the cybersecurity platform to include the artificial intelligence phenomenon. But we are definitely looking at ways to get in front of that, talking with interested employees who might want to seek a career in cyber. I'm happy to report that the Office of Homeland Security, every quarter, we host cybersecurity trainings and we get it free. It's a free service, and we are offering two classes now at the end of this month, and both classes already have a waiting list of 40 plus people. So it goes, you know, the classes fill up very quickly. We conduct those trainings now over at our Office of Homeland Security, and, you know, definitely the public is interested. We open it to government of Guam workers first, but if there's room, we also open it to the private sector. We try not to turn anyone away, but these are just some ways we're leaning forward to posture ourselves to look at that kind of a disaster, if you will, that kind of threat, because it is it's involved in the all hazards alert plan.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay, thank you, and then I'm looking at some of the documents here. It talks about the quarterly report. For, I believe, hazard mitigation. So, is it possible to get copies of your quarterly reports sent to the committee?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Ma'am, I would defer that question to Mr. Cabana.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Thank you, HSA. Yes, we can provide those documentation to you know, it's quarterly reports. Depending, also, we need to make that request to FEMA since there are federal partners and there's a chance they're the ones that are grantees, so we would also make that request via FEMA.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. And then going back to procurement, so how many are fully trained in the local procurement and then the federal procurement? I'm sure you have to know both sides. So, how many staff are fully trained in both types of procurement?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: My number is four, but Ms. Lucy's doing the calculations in her head, and I think she's going to probably come up with the correct answer.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: So for the FEMA 200 CFR, we have approximately six individuals from OHS, OCD, GRO, Guam Recovery Office and this was the class last year in August. In terms of the procurement module, We have probably about seven individuals who have completed module one, procurement module one, maybe about two or three that just finished module two from the GRO group, and we are on schedule for the next class that can happen. It's really hard to get into procurement module training. I mean, that class fills up because it's not just us. So we beg each time to please let one or two people in. But that is one of the items that is critical for our agencies, that individuals that monitor, that handle, that are in finance are procurement trained and FEMA trained.

Senator Sabina Perez: I think that's great that the CPO is there, *yes,* on there, *yes she is,* to help kind of make sure things are done very effectively and so like the DLAN system, is it what you need, you automatically put it in and you automatically or you get it expeditiously?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Right, so the DLAN system is operational. It worked, I mean, Sinlaku, if I have to have a storm that really sets up what could really happen well, it was Sinlaku. We had the CPO in our office the whole time. She had her buyer back at the office doing their work. Whatever the ESF, the emergency support function, for the agency, say health, or police or fire needed, they would enter a DLAN ticket. I mean, that was one thing that was drilled into everyone's mind, is if you need something, it has to be in DLAN. All directors knew that, all ESFs when it's entered into the DLAN system, we would source within ourselves first, within the island, and only if we could not meet that would we go out to FEMA. Now, the sourcing within ourselves and within the island is if we needed to procure we, that DLAN ticket will go over to the finance group, which is myself, Joe Cabana, Chris, there is four or five of us. We would work with the CPO and say, ma'am, we need to procure right away 4,000 sandbags. Here's a price quote. Here's my justification. She'll look at it. She'll have her team look at it. And if it passes muster, then we enter the requisition and it becomes the purchase order. So yes, the CPO, DOA was right there with us, guiding us.

Senator Sabina Perez: And that's really great because during the time of COVID, things went a little awry. So, yeah, to have somebody knowledgeable in there making things happen efficiently, that's a good move. So, I think that's it. My time has run out. I'm sure I have more questions for you guys, but thank you for your time today and your work in ensuring Guam is ready and prepared. Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Senator Perez and let me circle back because I asked this question and I'm going to be very pointed because it's a little troubling what I heard earlier than what you responded to Senator Perez. I'll ask again what portion of OHS/OCD staff have completed one or more of the four modules of procurement basic training and has any of your personnel who are required but has not received the procurement training engaged in procurement, which is in violation of our procurement training policy. I asked on the record earlier, you said only the two of you are the only ones who have taken the modules, and then just two minutes ago, you offered that there was more than the two of the people at this table. Help me understand why I should be a little bit more concerned by the answer.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Your question is well received, sir. We're just getting our numbers straight, and I understand your frustration. So I believe my answer was three. The three people at this table have completed the grants management training offered by FEMA.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: No, I'm talking about the local procurement basic training. It was four modules and then earlier you said one and one. One had more than one and then you just in response to the senator, you mentioned now it's up to four. How do we go in 45 minutes? Help me understand, Lucy. Please be, you were sworn in, you're on the record, so please be very clear to this committee.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Senator, thank you for reminding me I'm on record, but I think what the HSA, when she was looking at her numbers, she was thinking about the FEMA, because she attended that one. I mean, she...

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Oh, no, no, I asked that.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: No, I know you asked about the procurement module. But I sorry ma'am, I believe she was thinking the FEMA grants module training, because that's what she attended.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Oh no, I was clear on that part, I'm talking about the local procurement policy.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: I apologize that I was not clear on what you were clear on, sir, so now we're going to make that correction right now.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, so what is the total amount? Is it what you just testified to Senator Perez, is that correct? There's four current staff at the Office of Civil Defense that have one or more of the four local procurement trainings, the basic training for GovGuam?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, sir. For those that are under Homeland Security, Civil Defense, and GRO, there are…there are trained, four trained under procurement module one.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: And that's the only, just level one, and Mr. Cabana is the only one that's at level four?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Mr. Cabana's group has a couple of staff that just completed either, before or actually during Sinlaku they were still attending the class in the evening. There's about two or three of them. Because we're on record, what I will do is go back and ensure that those who receive their certificates will get you a list of names for the record.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Yes, thank you for that so much. Okay, I want to recognize the attendance of our speaker of this Guam legislature, Speaker Frank Blas Jr., Mr. Speaker, welcome. And you are now recognized for five minutes regarding the cap and this issue with FEMA.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the panel for being here. I'm going to preface this by saying that I'm greatly disappointed. Okay? Ms. Aguigui, you said that of the listing of grants that are restricted, other than this listing, you have five grants that you currently have operation without any restrictions what grants are those? And the amounts for each grant.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Hafa adai speaker. So sir the grants that are listed on this memo that we have at Homeland Security are the Emergency Management Performance grants, the Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities grants, the Hazard Mitigation grants, the Fire Management Assistance grants, and the Public Assistance grants.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Those are not restricted?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, these are the grants that we are managing at Homeland Security that are listed on this restrictive drawdown status. In addition to these, not listed here are the Homeland Security grants, and then we also have a Tsunami Grant Program that we also manage over at Homeland.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Earlier you said that there were five grants that were not on restriction, other than Homeland Security grant program and the Tsunami grant, which are the, what are the other three grants?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: The ones that are not on restriction but follow the same process to make sure that we get reimbursed are the Homeland Security Grant, HSGP, our Tsunami, our NextGen communications, which was just awarded last year. Our firefighters grant, which was just yeah, our firefighters grant is different from the fire management assistance, it's called AFG, which was just awarded last year, and our cybersecurity. Those are the five.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: And how much for each grant?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: I will get that list to you, but it is approximately is about 9.5 million dollars, but I can provide a list that identifies each grant. The NextGen itself is a three year grant, so that's why I want to give it to you in writing so you can see the breakdown.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, so of the grants that are affected, I'm referring to this letter from Mr. Fenton, I guess, on the restrictive grants, the grants that have restrictive drawdown status. Okay. Can you go through each of these grants and tell me how much these grants worth each?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Thank you, Senator. As far as the grants that were restricted, I can speak for the public assistance grants, although the grants were awarded at 70 million dollars, they may be restricted, but there's a different process now that we're communicating with FEMA. It's now that we submit all our requests for reimbursements, all our disbursements, and then they review those disbursements, and then they review, and once they get authorized or approved, then they send us to me a letter saying it's been reviewed and approved, and then we submit that to DOA for reimbursement, unlike in the past. This is based on our last meeting after the letter from Mr. Fenton about the restrictive, and we communicated with our federal partners to find out, so what are our ways to be able to get this monies drawn down. And we met with them just a couple of weeks ago. So we're doing that process now. Have them review it first, and then we will submit the request to DOA to process the drawdown.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, that's one of 16 grants. There's 15 more. Can I have the numbers for the 15?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: And that also goes through the hazard mitigation, same process.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, let me get this right, 70 million dollars for public assistance. What about crisis counseling and immediate services program?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: That is the grant that’s being handled Homeland.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, so what are the again, panel, what is the amounts, the total amounts for each of the 16 grants here?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Senator, or Speaker, with all due respect, I will submit a documentation that will identify each of the grant and the total amount awarded with the period of performance.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: I would like to also know what the start date was, *period of performance, hunggan,* and what the expiration date is in the grants. Ok?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: So I notice here that one of the restrictive, I mean, one of the grants on restricted drawdown is the EMPG grant. But you said that HSGP is no restriction. All right? First off, how many personnel do you have? And what are their funding sources?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: That's a complicated question, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: It shouldn't be complicated Esther. You should have that information right here and now.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: I understand that, sir, but in our unique situation, we have personnel that come and go, so I can tell you that right now we have the Guam Recovery Office who is now embedded in the Office of Civil Defense, and so we have 22 extra bodies that are also working with us. Mr. Cabana's finance team is helping us with the finances for our grants. We don't currently have an ASO to manage that. We have Miss Lucy who serves as our grants manager, and then she also serves as our ASO, and then she also serves as our ESF, and so she does a number of things in order for the day to day operations to occur. So, you know, the consistent number we have down at Homeland Security runs anywhere between seven to nine.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, how many people do you have in your HSGP program?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Under the HSGP program?

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Yes.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: We have seven individuals that share with EMPG.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: EMPG? *Yep.* They have seven, so?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: They're divided. Their costs are divided based on the task and the project that they work on.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Combined, how many HSGP and EMPG personnel do you have? Combined.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: I would say combined, personnel would be approximately…

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Don’t give me approximate. I need to know right now. What is…if we have a disaster right now, how many personnel do you have? *Twelve.* How many people do you have in your recovery office?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: I can answer that, Senator. For the recovery office, we have about 14 people. For the…I did a budget for Homeland, and in Homeland, I went ahead and budgeted for 21 employees. Out of the 21 employees, or budgeted, five of that, one, two, three, four, six of that are vacant. And out of that vacant position under EMPG grant or EMPG or operations, we have five of them that's vacant. And only out of the like out of the yeah, five of them 13 for EMPG, and five of that is vacant. And then under HSGP, we have I have three, and then all the others are coming like admin sites, it's five under Homeland.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, Lucy, you said of the combined total of HSGP and EMPG, there's 12 personnel. How many, and there's only seven that's being funded by HSGP, so that means you have at least five that is funded on EMPG, yet it's under restricted drawdown. How are you paying for them? How are you paying personnel costs for them?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: That would be a DOA question, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: That would be a, pardon?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: A Department of Administration, a BBMR question.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: What is your estimate as to how much that personnel is costing you?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Mr. Cabana has that number.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: I'm sorry, Senator. Under the EMPG, which is the, we're still pending an award letter from FEMA, which is the 23 EMPG. There was an award letter, but they needed some narrative correction on the admin plan. So out of that, we probably spent about 703,000 thousand out of the 984,776 dollars for the EMPG.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: For what fiscal year? *For fiscal year 23*. For what? *23*. How about who's, so how do you pay for 24, 25?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: 24, we'll continue to pay 24 and 25, also expenditure under a grant that's no longer a performance. Until such time this grant is being approved by FEMA, then as we get it approved, we're going to submit all our requests for the draw down. So we've already got the monies allotted for, for the 23, 24, and 25 EMPG grant.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: How are you going to justify using funding from a different funding source, different grant, for EMPG costs?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: The EMPG grant is only going to pay EMPG operations staff. But we don't have to.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: What specific grant are you taking money from?

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: No, it's taken off from a grant that's already paid performance under EMPG. So right now, the way DOA obligates the monies is they're using a grant funding that's already been approved by FEMA because, as you know, BBMR will not give us, well, we don't have any funding for sure because we're waiting for FEMA for the award letter. And although the award letter was there for the 23 EMPG, it's been approved, but we just have not gotten an award letter saying, okay, you can go ahead and submit that to your government agency as far as establishing an account. But we do have the award letter for that.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: This letter is dated May 12, 2026.

Mr. Joe Cabana, GRO: Yes, Senator, Speaker, yes. Also, part of the reason that this has not been submitted by FEMA yet is because of the shutdown that they recently had with the federal government that shut down the whole office. We had no communication as far as if this 23 already, but we did submit our admin plan with all the narrative that is needed to award the grant.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: You know, I really can't go, there are a number of questions I want to be able to ask, based on the personnel, how much these grants are worth, what they're for, and what the start and, I mean, the performance dates are for these grants that are in restricted drawdown status. But I'm gonna move on. Lucy, you said that you requested, you're going to be requesting funding, general fund funding. For what specifically are you asking for?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: I'm sorry?

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: You're going to be requesting for next fiscal year?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: 27.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: For 27? *Yes, sir*. How much are you asking and what for?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: 1.5 million dollars, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: And what for?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: It'll cover for personnel costs and basic operations, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: What? What of the 1.5 for personnel and basic operations, how much of that could have been gone to the HSGP and EMPG, as well as any other grants that you had?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: None of that, sir. We anticipated that question. So if there was an expense, such as travel and training, it was not put into our budget digest request because it would be grant related. If there was a project, say, such as DLAN, which is covered under EMPG, then that cost will be covered under EMPG, not local. Now, I do have to say, and this is me, that when we first submitted the budget digest, because of the uncertainty of the grants, I did put in DLAN as a backup because DLAN is a critical system for the Emergency Operations Center. But Mr. Cabana, the HSA, and I have gone through and scrubbed and anticipated questions that may be asked, and that was one of it, is how much of this cost could you take and put into your grants and make sure that it's written in the grants? And that's the key point is grants, expenses that the agency thinks it's going to utilize or have, has to be written in the grant.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: So you're telling me personal and management and maintenance costs were not written in the grant?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: No, sir, that's not what I'm saying. I am saying that personnel costs at this time are divided between grants. But based on my observations, so I made a recommendation, and this is my recommendation, that personnel costs be covered under local funding. And this is one of the other reasons. The grants are very restrictive and before anything can be done, we would have to go back and seek permission to do anything. Like if we wanted to hire a federal grants manager, we'd have to go back to the grantors and say, I'm sorry, I don't have local funds, but this is a necessity, and then have to justify it and then we have to wait, and sometimes that can be a process. For the past year, it has been painful because of the shutdowns, right? But it doesn't mean that the ask didn't happen. It went in, and now that everybody's back to work for the past three weeks, we have been playing catch up in getting things approved like my HAS.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Wouldn't a grants management person be one of the ask in your grant process to begin with?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, sir, it could be one of the grants, but some of the grants I didn't see it in, so we specifically wrote it in. Or they allocated it to a different position, like finance, like ASO, which shouldn't be. It should be specific. You need to have a grants person.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: So you asked for money for a certain position.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, sir.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: And then when you got it, you got the permission. Oh, I don't want that position. I want another position.

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: I don't know what they did back then, sir, but 23 forward and what I've worked on, I can tell you what I've asked for.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, I'm going to move on. Ms. Aguigui, you mentioned that you have some challenges in your cyber security. Okay, explain to me first off, you know, what's going on with your Marianas Fusion Center?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: So the two are related, sir. *Yes*. However, the relationship between the two is. So the grants, so the Fusion Center doesn't manage the cybersecurity grants. I manage the cybersecurity grants, and then the Fusion Center receives funding from the cybersecurity grants to conduct the business. So we are on hold, for lack of a better term, with our cybersecurity grants. We've already had two, I believe two desk audits with our cybersecurity grants even though we haven't spent one penny from a grant that was awarded to us back in 2023. And we have consulted with our cybersecurity grants management team, and they want more definite explanation of what projects that we are going to, we plan to implement with the cybersecurity grants. And we were headed to a project, and then the government furlough happened. And as a result of that, we are now back on the rotating time frame to meet back up with our cybersecurity grants management team so that we can finally submit a project, working closely with CISA to get the project approved so that we can finally see some funding drawn down so that we can finally use the cybersecurity grant that was granted to us back In '23. The Fusion Center operates-- so luckily, the analysts that are assigned to the Fusion Center are there on assignment from their agencies. So their salaries, salaries come from their agencies. The only person or the only position that supposedly funded out of the Homeland Security Grant Program is the director of the Marianas Region Fusion Center. We have asked our Grants manager to approve that position, and that feedback, we have not received an approval on that request as of yet. And a lot of it had to do with the government shutdown. And like us, they too are catching up on things that were left dormant in the last three months.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, let's talk a little bit more about Mariana's Fusion Center. How's that operating?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: So the Fusion Center is operating on a day-to-day basis. They are looking at law enforcement specific materials, and they are providing whatever threat assessment is necessary. For example, if the Guam Visitors Bureau asked if they could do a threat vulnerability assessment on the Tumon night market, they will send their analysts out to do the research that's necessary to come up with a threat vulnerability assessment. An event coming up that is one of Guam's biggest celebrations is the Liberation Day parade. And there's a request for the Fusion Center to do a threat vulnerability assessment to see if there's anything that we should be aware of, of law enforcement specific, that could happen during that occasion. So they're still operating on what they, on the analysts that are there.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, what space are they operating and how do they store your information? Some of that information is above sensitive. So how do you store it and who's got access to it?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Well, sir, you know, we cannot store classified information at a facility that does not…is not an approved facility so we don't have an approved space at Homeland Security to store classification.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: That's a bit interesting, Esther, because why don't you have an approved space? Okay? You do have a SCIF. *Sir.* I know, I built it.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: It's not a SCIF, sir. It’s not SCIF.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: What is it? It's not a SCIF.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: It's a secure room. There’s a difference.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay, so you have a secure room. What happened?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Well, that room was decertified, unbeknownst to us, and it still remains uncertified. They're decertified. It's lost its accreditation. I've been working with the Fusion Center Director, Rudy Gaza, to talk with the point of contact from that inspection team to respond to some questions we had. Like, for example, how did that Fusion, how did that secure room pass inspections in the years past and not pass in this last inspection? That question has not been answered yet. In anticipation of maybe a recertification or re-accreditation, I've asked the Fusion Center director to come up with a scope of work so that maybe we can look at fortifying that space if, in fact, it did fail inspection and come up with a plan on how we're going to rectify that. So they're working on that, Senator.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: This goes back to the question how do you store and manage secure information?

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, we do not keep secure information at our facility.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Half your programs here require secure storage, half your programs here, your Homeland Security grant program.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, are you saying that our Homeland Security Grant Program requires a secure facility?

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: No, it needs secure access so you can provide secure, store, receive, and store secure information. Tell me I'm wrong, Esther.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: Sir, I'm not saying that you're wrong. *Ok.* I am saying that we, the information on our Homeland Security Grant Program, is that what you're referring to?

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: No, I'm talking about the operations of the Homeland Security Grant Program. There are going to be times that you're going to need to access and you're going to need to receive secure information and act on it.

HS Advisor Esther Aguigui: And we do so with our partners with the FBI and with Joint Region Marianas.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: I only have a little time, so I'm going to move on to the next question. Asset management. Who handles your asset management program in the facility? And when I talk about asset management, because Lucy, you defer to, you look to when DLAN, when there's a request for materials and supplies and whatnot, okay? You look to in house as to whether or not you've got it. Do you have a program that keeps that up to date, your asset management? What do you have within the government facilities, your government inventory, and what you have in the private sector inventory? Yes or no?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: What I've seen is that OHS/OCD does have a asset program, which is also called a resource typing *Okay.* in the FEMA language, right? In the ICS course, and that's stored in DLAN and it's updated. Who works on it and who manages it? It is between the logistics team, the ops chief, and the planning chief. *Okay.* Because they need to understand what we have first within and what other agencies have that we can source or utilize.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay. Do you have an asset management program that you can rely on if it was a disaster in the next hour?

Ms. Lucia Perez, OHS/OCD: Yes, we do. *Okay.* We have them. Even if it's an Excel program, there is a program, there is a plan. *And it's up to date?* And it is up to date. *Okay.* As of Sinlaku up to date, maybe when I go back and I look something in, we may have decommissioned something. I might have to update it again, but as of Sinlaku, yes, sir, we do.

Speaker Frank Blas Jr.: Okay. I notice I'm done with time, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much, Speaker. So, first off, I want to thank you all for being with us this morning, and let me just say this that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and the Guam National Guard appreciates, absolutely appreciates, your participation in today's much needed discussion concerning Guam's emergency management services. But a lesson from history, if I can, today. In the 20th century, America wielded a strength best used in the service of peace. It was as true then as it must remain today in 2026. But strength must be continuous and focused when the enemy changes, and in the 21st century and beyond, the enemy has certainly changed. The enemy I am referring to is not some adversary that came our way when this modern emergency management system was stood up. Complacency is the enemy of progress. FEMA's decision to place all grants on restrictive drawdown status should not be taken lightly. Since our collective swearing in, this committee has recognized FEMA's decision to be consistent with the federal government's ongoing efforts to safeguard federal taxpayer dollars through stronger fiscal controls, reservation of critical resources for truly significant events, and a recognition that states and territories should invest more local resources into disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. Accordingly, the committee recommends for those who are currently in charge that you all have a mandate to manage federal and local resources effectively, ensuring transparency and accountability and avoiding unauthorized expenditures moving forward.

In closing, I would like to share with you all a response that I provided recently to a local news organization when asked about what coordination or oversight that this committee has reviewed or directed regarding plans to protect Guam's civilian population in case of an attack. My response was that the oversight hearings that are conducted by this committee are focused on the administration of emergency management programs which have exposed systemic problems to include a lack of staff and unresolved audit concerns with federally funded programs to support specific attack planning efforts. Simply put, our preparedness and collective ability to respond and recover from known and emerging threats are directly linked to how federal and local resources are in fact managed. Strengthening Guam's existing all hazards warning system, establishing or building up individual and family disaster supplies, scheduling school, workplace, and community wide drills, and other preparedness efforts workplace and communitywide drills and other preparedness efforts require resources and coordination. Our partnership with FEMA remains critical to our preparedness efforts and therefore it is imperative that the Government of Guam does its part to demonstrate good stewardship of federal funds. With that said, the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management and your Guam National Guard appreciates the attendance and participation of all the senators and department officials in this respective public hearing. Today's oversight hearing is hereby adjourned. The time is now 10:30 am CHamoru standard time. Thank you all for being with us today.

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) finds that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants for Guam were placed on restrictive drawdown status as of May 2026. According to FEMA, under the restrictive drawdown status, agencies must submit supporting documentation to their respective FEMA program offices for review and approval prior to the release of any grant funds. FEMA's decision to place all grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 on restrictive drawdown status is in response to longstanding and significant concerns regarding the Government of Guam's management of federal grant funds.

Based on information provided by the Governor's Office in response to a FOIA Request from the Committee's, FEMA identified three (3) issues:

1. Since 2019, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. During this period, Guam substantiated costs for less than 5% of obligated EMPG funding.

2. The 2023 Premier Group Audit identified over $40 million in questioned costs and 11 compliance issues, none of which have been fully resolved to date.

3. In 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds.

Through the Committee's June 15, 2026, Oversight Hearing on FEMA grants, the Committee learned that the Government of Guam settled less than $500,000 from an estimated $8.4 million in prior years' expenditures questioned by FEMA. The Office of Public Accountability (OPA) through OPA Report No. 2024-04 found that the General Fund paid $71.3 million in expenditures under the OHS-OCD operations, FEMA recovery, and tsunami grant programs, and was only reimbursed $62.9 million by FEMA.

Recognizing FEMA's decision to place all grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 on restrictive drawdown status, the Committee recommends for emergency management leadership to establish and strengthen internal administrative processes including oversight, mandatory federal reporting requirements, and staff training. Specifically, the Committee recommends that emergency management leadership ensure appropriate personnel are engaged in mandatory training to ensure FEMA-approved corrective actions are implemented and updated as may be needed in response to multiple findings of the 2024 OPA and FEMA-initiated audits, including but not limited to, budget monitoring procedures, federal guidelines compliance, timekeeping procedures, inventory control, procurement SOPs, travel justification, and sub-recipient monitoring requirements.

The Committee recognizes that without federal resources available to the people of Guam, the Government of Guam will have no choice but to support emergency management efforts completely using local taxpayer dollars. The consequences of the Government of Guam's failure to secure FEMA reimbursements are dire as continued non-compliance means fewer resources for other critical services across public safety, healthcare, and education.