

# Grantee: American Samoa

## Grant: P-19-AS-60-0DD2

October 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

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|                                               |                                         |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grant Number:</b><br>P-19-AS-60-0DD2       | <b>Obligation Date:</b>                 | <b>Award Date:</b>                             |
| <b>Grantee Name:</b><br>American Samoa        | <b>Contract End Date:</b><br>03/25/2028 | <b>Review by HUD:</b><br>Reviewed and Approved |
| <b>Grant Award Amount:</b><br>\$23,039,000.00 | <b>Grant Status:</b><br>Active          | <b>QPR Contact:</b><br>No QPR Contact Found    |
| <b>LOCCS Authorized Amount:</b><br>\$0.00     | <b>Estimated PI/RL Funds:</b><br>\$0.00 |                                                |
| <b>Total Budget:</b><br>\$23,039,000.00       |                                         |                                                |

### Disasters:

#### Declaration Number

FEMA-4357-AS

### Narratives

#### Disaster Damage:

Public Law 116-20 stipulates the appropriation of \$2.43 billion through the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in response to Presidential declared disasters in 2018 and 2019. These CDBG-DR program funds are authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) relevant to disaster relief and long-term recovery for a major disaster that occurred in 2018 or 2019.

American Samoa was devastated by Tropical Storm Gita, also known as DR-4357, and in December 2019, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced an allocation of \$23 million in CDBG-DR program funds to the Territory of American Samoa. This allocation was in accordance with Public Law 116-20 signed by President Trump on June 6, 2019 to address the unmet needs and long-term recovery efforts due to widespread damages caused by Tropical Storm Gita. Flooding from heavy rain, power outages and damaged buildings (residential and commercial) from strong winds were widespread across American Samoa, where rainfall in excess of 150 mm (6 inches) was reported.

CDBG-DR funds under Public Law 116-20 are allocated directly to the American Samoa Government (ASG). As the American Samoa administering agency for HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program over the years, the American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC) is also the designated grantee for CDBG-DR. Like the administration of CDBG funds, the ASDOC will ensure CDBG-DR funds are intended to benefit low -and-moderate-income households, although limited to eligible activities of:

- Immediate Disaster Relief
- Long-term Recovery
- Restoration of Infrastructure and Housing
- Economic Revitalization; and,
- Hazard

Our methodology to determine American Samoa's unmet needs and calculating funding allocation in accordance with the Federal Register Notices is based on home inspection data for FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and Public Assistance Program. This also includes Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan program. HUD calculated unmet housing needs as the number of housing units with unmet needs times the estimated cost to repair those units less repair funds already provided by FEMA and SBA.

#### Recovery Needs:

Gale force winds of over 50 miles per hour (mph) with gusts up to 145mph were recorded for TS Gita. It brought 30 inches of torrential rainfall with severe flooding, landslides, and over \$16 million worth of destroyed crops across the island.

A Presidential disaster declaration for American Samoa also allowed FEMA to provide individual and public assistance to the Territory. During the initial assessment, over 5,400 homes were identified to have been impacted by the tropical storm. Aside from residential homes, small businesses, and public infrastructure (roads, airport, seaport, utilities and telecommunications) were seriously damaged too.

a) Immediate Disaster Relief  
A Joint Task Force was immediately activated on February 9, 2018 to operate on a 24- hour basis and to conduct



assessments throughout the state of emergency. The Join Task Force was comprised of emergency service providers including –

- Lyndon Johnson (LBJ) Tropical Medical Center
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS)
- Office of the Protection and Advocacy
- Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA)
- Red Cross

The emergency shelters housed a total of 1,114 individuals. The Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) was assigned to administer all active emergency shelters that opened since Tropical Storm Gita until they closed on February 27th, 2018. By the time the emergency shelters closed, residents received temporary shelters (tents/tarps) or had alternate arrangements. The distribution of tents, tarps and cots were done for the islands of Aunu'u, Manu'a and Tutuila with the data as follows:

**Tutuila / Aunu'u**

**Over 500 tents; 200 tarps and, 400 cots**

**Manu'a**

**Over 20 tents, 100 tarps, and 60 cots**

During American Samoa's state of emergency for TS Gita, health assessments were done as well. Medical teams of four (1 Physician, 1 Dentist, 1 Nurses, and 2 Certified Nurse Assistants) were deployed during the storm. As a result, they assisted 2,114 patients, 50 of whom were TS Gita related. There were five dengue fever cases, 4,000 registered senior citizens, 629 individuals with special needs, and 439 were Community Health Center referrals.

Between March 23, 2018 and April 19, 2018, Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Access Functional and Unmet Needs (AFN) assessments were conducted and yielded the following results:

**Home Visited**

**868**

**Survivor Interactions**

**3,953**

**Survivor Registrations**

**1,842**

**Case Updates**

**405**

**Case Inquiries**

**123**

**Whole Community Referrals**

**1,662**

**Other AFN Registrations**

**549**

Crisis counseling programs were provided immediately for the community to receive service program assistance that lasted between April and June 2018. Regular crisis counseling services continued between July 1, 2018 and April 9, 2019. The data for crisis counseling services are as follows:

Immediate Service Program &nbsp;  

Regular Service Program

The American Samoa Government allocated \$500,000 of its local funds for a Disaster Relief Food Assistance Program. Due to



limited funding, the team prioritized benefit for the neediest households that were impacted by the tropical storm. An intake application process took place on October 9-22, 2018 to review all applications for assistance. The dissemination of food assistance benefits began on December 21, 2019 as soon as funding became available to the American Samoa Government. The following data is an overall view of the clients or beneficiaries served by the DHSS.

Disaster Relief Food Assistance Program

**Total Applied**

**7,359 individuals or 1,937**

**Total Approved**

**2,325 from 903 households**

**Total Benefits Issued**

**2,178 individuals (147 didn't claim benefits due to being away from the territory for the holidays or deceased when benefits were issued by December 21, 2018)**

**Value of Benefits**

**\$185 / person**

**Budget Allocation**

**\$70,000 for Administrative Costs**

**\$430,000 for Benefits**

Disaster Case Management Programs were also provided although it delayed due to challenging issues that the program did not launch until February 2019. As a result, 206 cases were identified and all needed 100% home repairs. Only 6 cases were closed with 200 pending. Disaster cleanup efforts can also trigger emotional stress and strain on families. The overwhelming feeling that each survivor cannot control the situation can cause emotional crisis. Village and community homes which we commonly refer to as guest houses are cultural spaces where village events occur. It is also the center of any community or village to gather to meet, celebrate, mourn or gather for a big family or village event. These traditional houses or guesthouses were not deemed eligible for repair and it led to an unmet need for many whose guesthouses were severely damaged by Tropical Storm Gita.

Outreach efforts were conducted by the Disaster Case Management program in collaboration between ASG (in this case the DHSS was the administering agency) and a non-government organization called the American Samoa Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (ASVOAD). Both groups worked towards identifying any and all unmet needs. The outreach programs enabled this public-private partnership to identify the types of available programs on island. These outreach programs included community groups like farmers and ethnic communities like the Fijian, Chinese, Korean, Tongan, and Filipino to

ensure they all understand the available resources they can seek assistance based on their needs.

Overall, the preliminary damage assessments (PDA) from FEMA had nearly 5,500 applicants with over 7,816 approved for assistance. This FEMA assistance was valued at \$20.3 million in individual assistance and over \$11 million in Small Business Administration loans.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) was in charge of registering survivors for assistance. It also included streamlining the process to implement a pre-registration process that documented a total of 9,883 applicants as of May 1st, 2018. The DRC identified 7,816 for Other Needed Assistance (ONA) and Housing Assistance (HA) with 682 for Small Business Administration for both business and residential.

As of September 2018, both FEMA and SBA provided assistance to American Samoa residents as a result of Tropical Storm Gita.

Tropical Storm Gita - Individual Assistance

**ASG / FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)**

**5,495 Homes**

**Registered Individual Assistance (IA)**

**7,816 Individuals**

**Approved for Housing Assistance (HA)**

**3,653 Individuals**

**Approved for Other Needed Assistance (ONA)**

**4,900 Individuals**

**Approved for Small Business Administration (SBA)**

**682 Residential & Businesses**

While there were 3,486 applications for SBA, only 682 were approved. Only 4 deaths as a result of TS Gita were assisted under ONA. This is in relation to the fact that some of these victims were unable to receive emergency health care during the storm, as well as medicine. Some victims died as a result of worsening health conditions due to the tropical storm. A total of 24 individuals received maximum awards for Individual and Household Program (IHP) assistance due to home losses (destroyed by TS Gita).

**b) Long Term Recovery Efforts**

American Samoa's long-term recovery from Tropical Storm Gita is focused on restoring its critical infrastructure, revitalizing the economy and incorporating resiliency and sustainability in housing structures across the territory to mitigate damages from future disasters.

Tualata is the largest district in the territory that sustained damages in homes, businesses and critical infrastructure as a result of severe flooding in the area. To date, the area remains heavily impacted by flash floods during the rainy season. Various homes across the territory also remain uninhabited due to various reasons including ineligibility of individuals/families to apply or even the federal assistance awarded to them wasn't sufficient to bring the home up to

standard and livable conditions.

American Samoa’s CDBG-DR Action Plan will provide more details on local and federal response and recovery efforts to date.

| Overall                                            | This Report Period | To Date        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Projected Budget from All Sources</b>     | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Total Budget</b>                                | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Total Obligated</b>                             | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$1,151,950.00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Total Funds Drawdown</b>                        | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Program Funds Drawdown</b>                      | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Program Income Drawdown</b>                     | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Program Income Received</b>                     | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Total Funds Expended</b>                        | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$77,289.32        | \$77,289.32    |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>HUD Identified Most Impacted and Distressed</b> | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                                    | \$0.00             | \$0.00         |
| <b>Other Funds</b>                                 | \$ 0.00            | \$ 0.00        |
| Match Funds                                        | \$ 0.00            | \$ 0.00        |
| Non-Match Funds                                    | \$ 0.00            | \$ 0.00        |

### Funds Expended

| Overall                                          | This Period  | To Date      |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASG/DOC). | \$ 77,289.32 | \$ 77,289.32 |

### Progress Toward Required Numeric Targets

| Requirement                       | Target          | Projected | Actual |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>Overall Benefit Percentage</b> |                 |           |        |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                   | 70.00%          | .00%      | .00%   |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                   | 70.00%          | .00%      | .00%   |
| <b>Minimum Non Federal Match</b>  |                 |           |        |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                   | \$ .00          | \$ .00    | \$ .00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                   | \$ .00          | \$ .00    | \$ .00 |
| <b>Overall Benefit Amount</b>     |                 |           |        |
| B-19-DV-60-0001                   | \$10,770,935.00 | \$ .00    | \$ .00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002                   | \$4,550,000.00  | \$ .00    | \$ .00 |



**Limit on Public Services**

|                 |                |        |        |
|-----------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| B-19-DV-60-0001 | \$2,480,850.00 | \$ .00 | \$ .00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002 | \$975,000.00   | \$ .00 | \$ .00 |

**Limit on Admin/Planning**

|                 |                |                |             |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| B-19-DV-60-0001 | \$3,307,800.00 | \$1,151,950.00 | \$77,289.32 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002 | \$1,300,000.00 | \$ .00         | \$ .00      |

**Limit on Admin**

|                 |              |                |             |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| B-19-DV-60-0001 | \$826,950.00 | \$1,151,950.00 | \$77,289.32 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002 | \$325,000.00 | \$ .00         | \$ .00      |

**Most Impacted and Distressed**

|                 |                 |                |        |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| B-19-DV-60-0001 | \$16,539,000.00 | \$1,151,950.00 | \$ .00 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002 | \$6,500,000.00  | \$ .00         | \$ .00 |

**Overall Progress Narrative:**

**Disaster Recovery & Mitigation**

The CDBG-DR Program held its first Core Stakeholders meeting with its partners. The partnership includes the Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA), Office of Disaster Management & Petroleum Management (ODAPM), Department of Public Works (DPW), American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO), American Samoa Telecommunication Authority (ASCTA) and District House Representatives. All stakeholders were invited and present. The priorities of the meeting were to establish a plan to address the Tualauta Drainage System project design that required an approved right of way (row) to initiate the project design phase. Since then, in collaboration with DPW, CDBG-DR via GIS staff was able to assist DPW in drainage pathways in accordance with current flood zones to determine the best route for the right of way. In addition to the re-assessment of the Tualauta drainage pathway, staff coordination continues with its partnering agencies to coordinate the next stakeholders meeting slated for February 2023. During this reporting period, the CDBG-DR received its total allocation of \$23 million, and personnel costs were reimbursed through drawdown requests approved. In addition to the programmatic and administrative coordination, the CDBG-DR held its second site visit/walk-through with the Governor to meet with residents, build rapport, and develop insight into the level of impact of the drainage and its current state. The CDBG-Mitigation Program underwent a review of its initial draft of the Action Plan following a 45-day review period. The CDBG mitigation action submitted on November 1, 2022, details the coordination and use of the \$1.4M HUD allocation. On December 29, 2022, the CDBG-Mit. The program received its total \$1.4M allocation to address mitigation efforts following Tropical Cyclone Gita. After meeting its Citizen Participation requirements, the project could submit on time. Stakeholder sub-group meetings continue to foster partnership relationships, discuss project objectives, and collaborate resources to meet project requirements the Initial Action Plan.

**Project Summary**

| Project #, Project Title | This Report            | To Date                |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                          | Program Funds Drawdown | Project Funds Budgeted | Program Funds Drawdown |
| 9999, Restricted Balance | \$0.00                 | \$18,500,000.00        | \$0.00                 |
| B-19-DV-60-0001          | \$0.00                 | \$13,280,562.00        | \$0.00                 |
| B-19-DV-60-0002          | \$0.00                 | \$5,219,438.00         | \$0.00                 |
| DR_Admin, DR_Admin       | \$77,289.32            | \$1,151,950.00         | \$77,289.32            |
| B-19-DV-60-0001          | \$77,289.32            | \$1,151,950.00         | \$77,289.32            |
| B-19-DV-60-0002          | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                 |
| DR_Planning, DR_Planning | \$0.00                 | \$3,387,050.00         | \$0.00                 |
| B-19-DV-60-0001          | \$0.00                 | \$2,106,488.00         | \$0.00                 |



B-19-DV-60-0002

\$0.00

\$1,280,562.00

\$0.00

