



## American Samoa

### 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report

### State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

**American Samoa**  
**2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report**

**Table of Contents**

<b>GENERAL OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Executive Summary .....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Use of Funds.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Promoting Equitable Outcomes .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Community Engagement .....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Labor Practices.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Use of Evidence .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Performance Report .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<b>Project Inventory.....</b>	<b>19</b>



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### *Executive Summary*

American Samoa had been the only remaining U.S. soil not to have community spread of the COVID-19 virus until February 21, 2022. It was not accidental that American Samoa remained COVID-19 free for so long. It required tremendous sacrifice by the people of American Samoa to keep their loved ones safe and protected. We are fortunate to have the support and federal assistance of the various COVID-19 relief and recovery funds to meet the pandemic related challenges.

Since the first public health emergency declaration in March 2020, American Samoa effectively closed its borders to all normal passenger travel and imposed restrictive protocols to combat the global pandemic and keep the people of American Samoa safe. The border closure was a critical component of the territory's plan to mitigate and control the introduction of the deadly virus into American Samoa however, it caused incredible strain to our healthcare system and services and economic activity. Our healthcare system is based on a single acute medical facility and 8 small village clinics servicing the entire 50,000 population across 7 islands. Access to medical services and treatment not available on the island was severely impacted due to the border closure.

In February 2021, under the new Governor Lemanu Mauga and LT. Governor Taluega Ale administration, a repatriation program was launched to begin to allow residents that had been stranded off-island for over a year to return home in a safe and manageable way. This also coincided with the introduction of the life-saving vaccinations and health precaution measures which allowed for the controlled reopening of passenger travel. As repatriation flights slowly increased the risk for COVID-19 entering American Samoa also increased. Beginning in July 2022, American Samoa has returned to its regular passenger travel schedule for mainland flights and inter-island flights but with some public healthcare emergency declaration protocols to remain in place, namely to register vaccination status, testing upon arrival and select quarantine for positive travelers. These measures provide adequate protection from the spread of the coronavirus and ensures our healthcare system is not overrun by community spread.

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan has been developed to address key territorial challenges that have been caused or exacerbated by the pandemic and the related effects to our limited healthcare services and treatment capacity available in the Territory and the negative impact to our economic drivers as a result of the public health emergency declaration.

American Samoa has a single acute medical facility to serve all its residents. The LBJ Hospital has a total of 124 medical beds and only 10 ICU beds to serve all 7 islands and a population of 52,000 residents. Increasing access to adequate healthcare services and improving treatment options available in American Samoa is a critical need for the Territory and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration restricting travel. Improving our healthcare services and treatment available in the Territory is the highest priority of this administration to meet our healthcare needs and allow us to reopen our borders and be ready to respond should COVID-19 reach our shores.

Strengthening our seaport and airport facilities and improving sea transportation between the main island of Tutuila, the Manu’a Islands and Aunu’u are critical for transporting supplies, developing businesses and access to healthcare services. The inadequate state of these facilities has been highlighted under our public health emergency declaration and as a result of mitigation steps to keep COVID-19 outside of our borders. Our entire society is 100 percent dependent on goods being able to flow through our single commercial port. Interruptions and delays which were a common scenario due to the added vessel clearance and inspection protocols had a direct and negative impact on our businesses and access to basic necessities. It cannot be overstated that our economy exists only so long as vessels are able to safely unload their cargo and commercial fishing vessels are able to be cleared to deliver their catch to the cannery for processing.

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan will allow much needed improvement to our water distribution system, where much of the piping is approaching 60 years in service. These aged pipes are estimated to be leaking up to 60% of water throughout the distribution system.

Improving our connectivity and broadband access across the islands remains a priority and will be critical to ensuring American Samoa is better prepared to operate with the current COVID-19 pandemic and to strengthen our broadband infrastructure for future challenges.

Since the approval of the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan in August 2021, the implementation of the various programs and projects have been successfully launched to address the challenges mentioned above. Our attached 2022 Recovery Plan report will outline and highlight the progress and outcomes for each allocation of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) administered by the ARPA Oversight Office under the Office of the Governor.

On behalf of the American Samoa Government and the people of American Samoa, we are truly grateful for the federal assistance these ARPA funds provide to address these critical territorial needs. We are committed to ensuring we implement and execute the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan in accordance with the statutory and award guidelines.

*Use of Funds*

The following table summarizes the intended use of ARPA funds to address the challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration.

Section 602. Use of Funds	Percent Allocated	Total
(a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; d) to make necessary investment into water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$479,135,254.00</b>

Capital investment into Healthcare facility		<b>63%</b>	<b>\$300,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into Mental Health facility		<b>5%</b>	<b>\$24,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into DOH Community Centers		<b>4%</b>	<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into Seaport facility		<b>4%</b>	<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into Airport facility		<b>3%</b>	<b>\$15,000,000.00</b>
Travel Safe project		<b>2%</b>	<b>\$8,100,000.00</b>
ARPA Oversight Office Administration		<b>1%</b>	<b>\$3,754,000.00</b>
Repatriation/Quarantine program		<b>2%</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into inter-island transportation		<b>2%</b>	<b>\$8,000,000.00</b>
Capital investment into Public buildings (Social Distancing, Non-profit Organizations (Hope House, NGO's, etc.)		<b>3%</b>	<b>\$12,000,000.00</b>
Affordable Home loan program		<b>2%</b>	<b>\$8,000,000.00</b>
Small Businesses loan program		<b>2%</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
ASG Vaccination Program		<b>1%</b>	<b>\$5,000,000.00</b>
Upgrade of communication infrastructure (towers, Available funds for repairs to water distribution system		<b>2%</b>	<b>10,000,000.00</b>
remaining ARPA funds			<b>\$281,254.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$479,135,254.00</b>

*a. Public Health (EC 1)*

American Samoa's limited public healthcare system has been a challenge long before the threat of COVID-19 pandemic to provide adequate health care services for the people of American Samoa. Our reliance on a single medical facility, LBJ Hospital with its 124 medical beds and only 10 ICU beds was a significant factor to closing our borders since March 2020 as the first line of defense as the COVID-19 spread across the globe. Our limited services and capacity to handle an outbreak with our current public healthcare services capabilities. Utilizing the ARPA funds to strengthen our capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and future healthcare emergencies is the top priority for the use of ARPA funds.

The main focus of spending in this EC is a new 40 bed hospital facility located in the most populous area in the Territory. This facility will increase health care capacity significantly, decrease wait times for critical services, and provide expanded access to healthcare. One of the challenges in implementing this project was ensuring the design best met the needs of the people. Initially, community engagement and input from healthcare leadership led to the decision to pursue the 40-bed facility. During this last year, after continued discussions, ASG designated a committee made up of healthcare professionals to determine if design changes were necessary. After the committee's thorough review and feedback, ASG ultimately decided to continue with the planned facility. In addition to the investment into a specialized acute hospital, approximately \$100 million has been allocated to make urgently needed improvements at the LBJ Tropical medical Center. Expanding the emergency room, ICU facilities and hiring of doctors, nurses and other staff will improve the local medical services on island.

The Department of Health will lead the efforts to improving medical services to the outer islands and outer villages is critical part of our plans to strengthen our response capabilities in the event of further outbreaks and address the multiple health issues that make our population vulnerable to severe disease. This includes expanding to provide a community health clinic to a previously unserved location in Aunu'u, whose residents rely on small boats to cross the channel to Tutuila to receive care. The improvements in our community health centers in Manu'a and the more remote villages on Tutuila will allow better access to healthcare services. This is particularly necessary as non-communicable diseases continue to plague our population, which in turn increases likelihood of severe disease.

Lastly, a tragic consequence of our border closure saw a significant increase in teen and young adult suicides during 2020. The rise in criminal cases involving illegal methamphetamines and other illegal drugs during the border closure highlighted a desperate need to address this growing problem in American Samoa. Improving our mental health services in American Samoa is an important component in the overall health and wellness of the Territory and is sorely lacking presently. To that end, the Department of Health has been awarded \$24 million for a facility dedicated to behavioral health and drug/alcohol treatment. Currently, there is only one acute care facility that provides behavioral health care but is limited in the number of services it can provide. This project will provide a greater range of services to meet the varied needs of the community.

*b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

All economic activity in American Samoa begins at the only commercial port and only Airport to serve international flights. American Samoa receives more than 90% of its medical supplies and medicines, food items, general merchandise, building supplies, equipment and mail through these ports. Disruptions in clearing fishing vessels or cargo ships cost businesses money every minute they are delayed. Many of these cargo vessels caring perishable goods have been on the water for two weeks and goods have been on the vessel for three weeks before they arrive in the Territory. As a result of the public health emergency declaration and the protocols imposed to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our businesses experienced significant delays in their shipments. As supply chain issues arose in the United States, they were also felt in American Samoa.

The Department of the Port Administration has been awarded funding to make significant improvements to the seaport and airport. The improvements at each are intended to modernize the facilities and maximize space with a priority put on quarantine areas and social distancing. The border restrictions highlighted the issues with moving both people and goods through these areas safely and efficiently. At the seaport, for example, the increased tonnage of goods flowing through the seaport stressed the already deteriorating facilities and brought the need for more container space to the forefront. Meanwhile at the airport, social distancing and quarantine space was initially insufficient to support regularly scheduled flights further necessitating the flight restrictions for over a year.

*c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)*

American Samoa ARPA Plan is designed to address Territory-wide challenges as a result of the public health emergency declaration and the mitigation protocols to keep American Samoa COVID-19 free. First, American Samoa's healthcare system is publicly funded with one hospital and community centers used by the entire population. Private healthcare services are extremely limited in American Samoa so any capital investment into improving our public healthcare system benefits the entire Territory. In the most recent Census, only 5,394 people out of 48,553<sup>1</sup> had private insurance meaning almost 90% of the population are reliant on the single hospital and several community centers to meet all their health care needs regardless of severity. Further underscoring the lack of available access to healthcare is that the average household income is only \$41,752. With so many of our people living below the federal poverty line, there is an urgent need to protect them by providing enhanced healthcare services locally.

Use of ARPA funds for non-profit organizations, home loan program and small business loans will also provide various communities within the Territory an opportunity to seek relief and utilize the ARPA funds to address their difficulties as a result of the pandemics.

*d. Premium Pay (EC 4)*

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan has not nor does it intend to expend any SLFRF funds in this category.

*e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)*

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan includes SLFRF funds for water distribution infrastructure projects to improve and reduce water loss due to aging pipe systems. SLFRF funds will also be used to improve upload and download speed across the Territory to include the Manu'a islands and Aunu'u and the outer villages. The local utility, the American Samoa Power Authority, has already begun undertaking these critical improvements, which will not only prevent water loss but also keep contaminants out of the water supply and reduce the need for boil water notices that have been nearly constant for many years.

Having adequate connectivity and bandwidth is critical to allowing our children to continue their education during a pandemic shutdown and allow for commerce and needed government services to operate. The two ISPs in the Territory have been awarded funding to increase 5G services allowing for a greater reach of broadband activity to all the islands. Funding has also been awarded to finance an undersea cable to connect the Manu'a islands to the main island of Tutuila and high-speed capacity. These projects have the potential to continue to improve internet service in the Territory, which was previously among the most expensive in the country.

---

<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau 2020 accessed at:  
<https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income+and+Poverty&g=040XX00US60&d=DECIA+American+Samoa+Demographic+Profile&tid=DECENNIALDPAS2020.DP3>.

#### *f. Revenue Replacement EC 6)*

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan has elected the \$10 million standard allowance under this category and will apply the funds to projects and programs that most effectively address the needs of the Territory.

#### *Promoting Equitable Outcomes*

American Samoa occupies a particularly unique demographic position within the greater United States. As discussed below, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line and there is near universal dependence on a single hospital. Generally, there is some equity in economic status among the different ethnic/racial groups in the Territory; however, there are several barriers that exist among the minority groups that must be addressed.

The focus of the Recovery Plan is on investing into areas that will improve access and outcomes for a critically underserved population as a whole. Each subgroup faces much the same difficulty, but barriers to services like language will also be addressed.

#### *a. Goals*

According to the latest Statistical Yearbook published by the American Samoa Department of Commerce, 57.8% of the population lives below the poverty line. This figure is roughly similar across ethnic and racial lines except for the Tongan population, which sees 80.5% of individuals living in poverty. The per capita income for the residents of the Territory was \$6,311.

Generally speaking, the entirety of the 49,710 residents constitutes an underserved population. This is further reinforced by the complete reliance on a single, government run hospital for nearly all healthcare needs. Currently, there are no other hospitals in American Samoa and services can be limited. For example, there are only 130 beds and 10 ICU beds at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center servicing the entire population.

Minority groups face roughly the same economic disadvantages as the majority Samoan population. There are, however, significant immigrant populations that can be more vulnerable and face difficulties in accessing services. There are cultural, linguistic, and occasionally immigration issues that make healthcare services more difficult to access.

The focus has been on healthcare access in this section because the bulk of ARPA funding will be directed towards improving healthcare capacity and services. Providing adequate services to the population in general is the major concern since decades of limited resources has created a populace vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

#### *b. Awareness*

The American Samoa Government is committed to engaging residents and businesses to ensure that they are aware of the programs and services being offered. To start, the ARPA Oversight Office established by the Governor has held public forums to educate the public on the Recovery Plan. The Office has also held sessions with the Chamber of Commerce to similarly educate the business community.



Various departments and agencies will administer the ARPA funded programs and projects. Each administering department or agency will include public notification and information sessions to solicit feedback on the program from the territorial stakeholders, including businesses, non-profit organizations and individual residents of the Territory. In particular, the Department of Health has well-established outreach initiatives including advertising campaigns (radio, social media, print).

In addition to the campaigns above, the traditional village hierarchy structure creates an opportunity to communicate information on wide spread basis. By coordinating with the Office of Samoan Affairs, messages can be relayed through pulenu'u (village mayors) and matai (chiefs) to spread program/service information to each family in villages throughout the Territory. Engaging with other leaders in the community, like pastors, is also an effective means to spread messages.

For the non-English and non-Samoan speaking groups, ASG is prepared to do outreach in those communities, as well. The need for multi-lingual campaigns has long been understood and even put into practice with the Measles outbreak that slightly preceded the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the tools at hand and the relatively small population size, disseminating information widely and equally is realistic and likely with the plans for engagement already in place.

#### *c. Access and Distribution*

American Samoa's healthcare facilities and programs are generally available for all residents. Through Medicaid and other programs, healthcare is largely subsidized. Barriers do, however, exist in some instances.

The most significant situation where barriers exist are with the immigrant population. Non-residents can face differing costs for services at the hospital or may not be eligible for DOH programs. This can discourage some from getting the healthcare they may need.

The intent of the Recovery Plan is to increase access for all populations and funding for care that will, in turn, increase the health of every individual in the Territory. Better facilities and funding of programs can lessen the burden on those populations that might not traditionally qualify for subsidized services.

#### *d. Outcomes*

The main objective of the American Samoa Government is to increase healthcare capacity, primarily through using funds on a new hospital and upgrades to existing facilities. Given the socioeconomic situation of the population, this expenditure will greatly improve access to services and result in more positive health outcomes for the entirety of the population. As noted above, the high poverty rates and the critically low capacity in the healthcare system has caused many difficulties in keeping the population healthy. It has been a major factor in the suspension of commercial flights, which has kept American Samoa safe, but also exacerbated disparities in some instances.

Every group is reliant on a single hospital at this time and addressing this major need will definitely assist in creating better outcomes. Beyond the hospital, there are other plans in place to increase the access to better healthcare, mainly through capacity building.

With the above considerations in mind, American Samoa's objectives in spending these funds are to reach universal levels of service. Traditionally, the residents as a whole have been underserved in healthcare resulting in the high incidences of non-communicable diseases, which make many more susceptible to difficulties with COVID-19. Much of this funding will be used to achieve universal service by increasing capacity and quality.

In terms of specifically targeted groups, there are several areas of note. There will be significant investment in increasing both access to healthcare and economic opportunities for the Manu'a islands. Most recent data shows that there are 1,143 residents in these three islands located roughly 60 miles from the main island. The Territory's only hospital is located on the main island of Tutuila, making it difficult for Manu'a residents to access services. Department of Health services are likewise limited. Through the ARPA funded projects, efforts are being made to connect these residents to healthcare. Reliable transportation has been a major issue also for economic opportunities. Like the rest of American Samoa, these islands are completely dependent on importing goods requiring regular and reliable transportation services. These efforts are particularly important in light of the data that shows the per capita income in Manu'a is even lower than the Territory average at \$5,441.

Samoan and "Samoan and other" represent 91.3% of the population. The remaining population is made up of other Pacific islanders (3.7%), Asian (3.6%), White (0.9%), and Hispanic (0.1%). As stated above, the data shows that these groups have roughly the same economic opportunities and healthcare access. With such a large overall population below the poverty line, the focus and spending will be on access for all. Targeting of specific groups will be focused on communications and outreach to ensure that each group is aware of the services made available by ARPA funding. Specific programs like the Emergency Rental Assistance Program will help those residents that need it across every group since each is similarly situated.

#### *Implementation Issues:*

##### *Goals and Targets –*

As discussed above, the different racial groups have general parity economically, save for the Tongan community that has the highest poverty rate. There are roughly 541 adult age individuals of Tongan descent that are below the poverty line, based on the information contained in the most recent American Samoa Statistical Yearbook. While the difficulties facing the Tongan community are significant, the majority of the total population are also below the poverty line.

The efforts thus far, and the plan overall, is geared less towards specific racial equity and more towards increasing economic equity for the population as a whole. Specifically, programs like ERAP, the Cash Assistance Program for unemployed/underemployed workers, the Home Loan Assistance Program, and the Small Business Loan Program are all working towards improving the economic opportunities. The short-term Cash Assistance Program sought to assist workers

impacted by the government-imposed restrictions resulting from the first local spread of COVID-19.

Each of the above programs intended to provide immediate assistance to face the challenges brought on by the pandemic. However, much of the Recovery Plan is focused on providing adequate health care, which has been a constant challenge over the years. This focus on healthcare is not at the exclusion of economic equality, but rather in support of that policy goal. Studies have shown that healthcare expenditures have a positive relationship with economic growth by increasing income, GDP, productivity, and alleviating poverty.<sup>2</sup>

The Recovery Plan's primary focus is on increasing healthcare capacity and making health services more accessible. This will be achieved through renovations at the existing hospital, a new 40-bed hospital, and improvements to/additional community health centers including a dedicated behavioral health center. Each of these is intended to not only directly address the issue of providing quality care and improving overall health outcomes, but will also have the effect of improving the economic well-being of the Territory.

#### *Project Implementation –*

Healthcare is at the forefront of the equity strategy employed by the American Samoa Government. Ensuring quality care locally, especially when the majority of the population is below the poverty line, is key. Often times, patients must travel for care that is unavailable in the Territory and despite government assistance, these trips can create a significant hardship.

In addition to the above, American Samoa has focused on improving accessibility to small businesses, in particular. Improving access to credit has been a major policy endeavor with ARPA funds that is intended to ensure that small businesses cannot just survive through the difficulties of the pandemic but to grow, as well. Accessibility, though, also includes investments in certain facilities like the Seaport and Airport. American Samoa is differently situated than its counterpart States and Territories in that certain basic issues like transportation serve to prevent growth by increasing shipping times, creating scarcity of necessary supplies and food making small businesses more vulnerable to factors outside of its geographical Territory.

The investments in healthcare and Port facilities make up a significant portion of the allocated funds. However, American Samoa also recognizes the importance of immediate assistance. As previously pointed out, programs like the Cash Assistance Program for workers made use of existing program structures to get funds quickly into the hands of those facing troubled times due to COVID-19. The non-profits of the community also had funds made available for assistance.

---

<sup>2</sup> Raghupathi, V., & Raghupathi, W. (2020). Healthcare Expenditure and Economic Performance: Insights from the United States Data. *Frontiers in public health*, 8, 156. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00156>

## *Community Engagement*

The American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office has been tasked with the public outreach to gather feedback on the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan's identified priorities and category allocation.

Guidance from Territorial Leaders emphasized exploring projects and programs that addressed the challenges facing the Territory as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration. To seek projects that allow this once in century funding to meet our present needs and prepares American Samoa for the next pandemic. Incorporating feedback from a wide range of territorial stakeholders was key in developing the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan.

The initial general public feedback began before the creation of the AS ARPA Oversight Office. As information became available, information was collected through individual interactions with members in the business community and private sector. Direct correspondence between the Executive and Legislative leaders regarding critical needs within the community and the possibility of ARPA funds as the funding source.

The administration created the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office to administer the ARPA/SLFRF funds and to ensure compliance with all statutory and administrative requirements including public outreach and reporting.

Briefings are scheduled with the House of Representatives and Senate to present the initial American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan for their input and feedback.

There have been numerous interactions with members of the business community and private sector seeking to understand how the SLFRF funds could be used to address eligible projects facing the business community. This includes presentations to the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce to gather their input and insight. The AS ARPA Oversight Office has also hosted ARPA/SLFRF informational sessions for the general public to comment and provide feedback.

An ARPA Oversight Office web page was created to post relevant information on ARPA/SLFRF funds on the American Samoa Government Website.

The American Samoa Government has a unique organizational government structure that includes traditional and cultural leaders that provides a unique perspective on village life. The Office of Samoan Affairs headed by the Secretary of Samoan Affairs and its District Governors leadership structure allows for information dissemination in a culturally unique way.

The ARPA Oversight Office has conducted individual meetings with semi-autonomous Authorities of government which includes our utilities for their valuable input.

The ARPA Oversight Office has connected with numerous non-profit and non-governmental organizations regarding the potential uses of the ARPA/SLFRF funds. Together, a wide cross-section of the population and key stakeholders have been involved in the creation of the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan. Based off this collection of feedback, priorities and recommendations, the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan was created to meet the



immediate needs of the Territory as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration.

The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan includes allocation of funding to meet the diverse needs of all the residents of American Samoa. Capital investment into a new medical facility on the main island of Tutuila that serves 90%+ of the local population will dramatically improve access to healthcare and the quality of treatment available in the Territory. Too often, families must endure loved ones leaving the Territory to seek medical treatment unavailable in the Territory creating financial and emotional harm for the patient and families. American Samoa depends on its single acute medical hospital, improving these services are of critical importance.

In addition to the above, the ARPA Oversight Office works to review/approve funding requests. In order for projects and programs to be approved for funding, agencies and organizations must include a community engagement plan in their proposal. Typically, this has meant conducting informational sessions with a time for feedback/questions from the community. Efforts are made by the potential sub-recipients to advertise these meetings both on the internet and over the local radio stations to ensure that the largest group of people is reached. Written comments are also allowed. This feedback has become an essential aspect of each project/program and will continue to be used so that the public has input on the use of funds.

*Labor Practices*

American Samoa has required clauses in procurement contracts that address the strong labor standards as well as supporting economic recovery. These are well-established and will be included in all contracts for infrastructure projects using ARPA funds. The American Samoa Government, American Samoa Power Authority, and American Samoa Telecommunications Authority are all required to include these provisions, which ensures that no matter which agency is leading the project, the requirements will be consistent.

Below are the required contract provisions:

<b>CLAUSE</b>	<b>REQUIRED BY AMERICAN SAMOA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE</b>	<b>APPLIES TO</b>
<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY</b>	10.0250(d)(3), 10.0260(c)	All Contracts in excess of \$10,000
DAVIS BACON ACT	10.0250(d)(5)	Construction contracts that exceed \$2,000 and when required by federal grant program legislation
CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT	10.0250(D)(6); 10.0260(D)	Construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 or contracts in excess of \$2,500 which involve employment of mechanics or laborers
CLEAN AIR AND WATER	10.0250(d)(7); 10.0260(f)	All contracts over \$100,000 (unless requirement has been waived by EPA)

In addition to the above required clauses, ASG Procurement Rules give preference to local bidders in construction projects. For contracts valued at \$50,000 or less, only local bidders are allowed to participate. For those greater than \$50,000, local bidders are given specified add-on percentages. This local preference leads to a greater number of local employees and overall income that is much needed in the Territory. This policy has a direct effect on local stimulation of the economy.

### *Use of Evidence*

The American Samoa Government has established an Oversight Office responsible for administering and managing the ARPA funds as well as vetting the eligible projects. Part of the responsibilities of the Office is to evaluate the eligibility and need for each project.

The process for evaluation/vetting begins with the lead government agency or organization submitting a project proposal that must include specific information about the necessity of the project. The Oversight Office staff is then responsible for reviewing the proposal and obtaining more information from both the lead department as well as other agencies to get a complete picture of how the project qualifies and fills a required need. For each program like behavioral health and other public health outreach endeavors, data showing current resources, identified targeted groups, and other information showing the need created/exacerbated by the pandemic are required to evaluate the projects.

A Learning Agenda would be helpful in focusing attention on areas of need so that the funds are most effectively used. Currently, ASG has not been using a Learning Agenda. The development of one would help keep the attention on the areas of most need and assist in formulating the programs accordingly. However, unlike many other jurisdictions, American Samoa's needs can be extremely fundamental. For example, after decades of limited resources, the only hospital serving 50,000 residents will need to expand to sufficiently address factors that make the population more susceptible to poor outcomes with regard to COVID-19. In short, the only way to address this is to expand healthcare capacity by investing in new facilities that will increase the capacity from 150 beds to a number far greater. The knowledge of this necessity has long been apparent and captured in data over the years, so the necessity of a tool like a Learning Agenda for a project like this is far less significant.

An ever-present issue in American Samoa is the challenge of data collection and availability. Where other jurisdictions may have access to more defined data to create tailored, evidence-based responses, such information is not always available for the Territory. The American Samoa Statistical Yearbook 2020 is the latest available resource, however, there are some instances where the data is not recent. This makes using evidence clearinghouses difficult as adequate baselines and trackable program data are not well established. The problem is compounded by a historic lack of resources to support this type of data collection and analysis.

American Samoa does, however, seek out the most information and data it can find to support its evaluation efforts. Obtaining this data is critical to the mission of the Oversight Office, which is ensuring that funds are used in accordance with the Act and fill the needs made worse by the pandemic. Working with departments and other organizations in the evaluation stage begins the process of data collection. Justifications for funding requests typically must include data

that highlights the need and can then be tracked to show the impact/effectiveness of the program/project.

Much of the current projects include capital investments based on the readily available information regarding public health and economic impact. At this juncture, investments in healthcare facilities represent the vast majority of the funding allocations. In order to refine these projects to be most effective, data showing existing facility capacity and identifying how many patients need to be served are the types of information used to justify expenditures. The long lead times in getting these projects off the ground, though, unfortunately make providing trackable data reflecting the effectiveness of the project at this point impossible.

Where data is available on specific awards, it will be discussed in the relevant Project Inventory.

*Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category*

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Cumulative Allocation to date</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditure (up to 6/30/23)</b>
<b>1: Public Health</b>			
COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention			
COVID-19 Vaccination^	1.1	2,665,254.00	(69,710.00)
COVID-19 Testing^	1.2		
COVID-19 Contact Tracing^	1.3	7,716,000.00	782,638.02
Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.) ^	1.4	12,000,000.00	974,603.80
Personal Protective Equipment^	1.5		
Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities) ^	1.6		
Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine) ^	1.7	377,250,000.00	7,419,751.33
COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses^	1.8		
COVID 19 Assistance to Non-Profits^	1.9		
COVID-19 Aid to Impacted Industries^	1.1		
Community Violence Interventions			
Community Violence Interventions*^	1.11		
Behavioral Health			
Mental Health Services*^	1.12	24,000,000.00	122,448.13
Substance Use Services*^	1.13		
Other			
Other Public Health Services^	1.14		
Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	-		
<b>2: Negative Economic Impacts</b>			

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Cumulative Allocation to date</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditure (up to 6/30/23)</b>
Assistance to Households			
Household Assistance: Food Programs*^	2.1		
Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^	2.2		
Household Assistance: Cash Transfers*^	2.3		
Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs*^	2.4		
Household Assistance: Paid Sick and Medical Leave^	2.5		
Household Assistance: Health Insurance*^	2.6		
Household Assistance: Services for Un/Unbanked*^	2.7		
Household Assistance: Survivor's Benefits^	2.8		
Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers*^	2.9	2,700,000.00	1,863,095.12
Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives) *^	2.1		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*^	2.11		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting*^	2.12		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System*^	2.13		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning*^	2.14		
Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^	2.15	8,000,000.00	1,442,678.96
Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^	2.16		
Housing Support: Housing Vouchers and Relocation Assistance for Disproportionately Impacted Communities*^	2.17		
Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*^	2.18		
Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators*^	2.19		
Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation*^	2.2		
Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities^	2.21		
Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^	2.22		
Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties^	2.23		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts^	2.24		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^	2.25		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services*^	2.26		
Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time^	2.27		
Contributions to UI Trust Funds^	2.28		



<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Cumulative Allocation to date</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditure (up to 6/30/23)</b>
Assistance to Small Businesses			
Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^	2.29	12,000,000.00	2,903,269.51
Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^	2.3		
Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements^	2.31		
Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance*^	2.32		
Enhanced Support to Microbusinesses*^	2.33		
Assistance to Non-Profits			
Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^	2.34	4,800,000.00	1,807,806.18
Aid to Impacted Industries			
Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^	2.35		
Aid to Other Impacted Industries^	2.36		
Other			
Economic Impact Assistance: Other*^	2.37		
Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention*^	-		
Education Assistance: Other*^	-		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Other*^	-		
Social Determinants of Health: Other*^	-		
<b>3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity</b>			
General Provisions			
Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers	3.1	2,131,264.00	1,036,734.17
Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff	3.2		
Public Sector Workforce: Other	3.3		
Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	3.4		
Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs	3.5		
<b>4: Premium Pay</b>			
Public Sector Employees	4.1		
Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers	4.2		
<b>5: Infrastructure</b>			
Water and Sewer			
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment	5.1		
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance	5.2		
Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater	5.3		
Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows	5.4		
Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	5.5		

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Cumulative Allocation to date</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditure (up to 6/30/23)</b>
Clean Water: Stormwater	5.6		
Clean Water: Energy Conservation	5.7		
Clean Water: Water Conservation	5.8		
Clean Water: Nonpoint Source	5.9		
Drinking water: Treatment	5.1		
Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution	5.11	20,000,000.00	1,616,943.92
Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares	5.12		
Drinking water: Source	5.13		
Drinking water: Storage	5.14		
Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	5.15		
Water and Sewer: Private Wells	5.16		
Water and Sewer: IJJA Bureau of Reclamation Match	5.17		
Water and Sewer: Other	5.18		
<b>Broadband</b>			
Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	5.19		
Broadband: IJJA Match	5.2		
Broadband: Other projects	5.21	10,000,000.00	4,327,608.62
<b>6: Revenue Replacement</b>			
Provision of Government Services	6.1	7,974,470.00	
Non-federal Match for Other Federal Programs	6.2		
<b>7: Administrative</b>			
Administrative Expenses	7.1	3,754,000.00	368,008.23
Transfers to Other Units of Government	7.3		
Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)	-		
		<b>494,990,988.00</b>	<b>24,595,875.99</b>

*Performance Report*

As stated previously, many of the approved projects are capital expenditures that will not have sufficient data to examine the Key Performance Indicators (KPI). As KPI's become available in subsequent reports, they will be included.

At the moment, there are several programs to which we can draw on KPI to evaluate project performance. Where performance data is available, they are included below in the associated entry in the Project Inventory.

One final note must be made regarding ASG's reports and any potential discrepancies. Due to ASG's internal systems and processes, there are expenditures that do not get posted until after

a reporting period has closed. This is a common issue with quarterly reports but it will also cause some discrepancies between those reports and annual figures reported here. All expenditures are being tracked and accounted for even though we are not able to go back and correct previously filed reports.

In addition, American Samoa's unique circumstances with its NEUs and Counties has allowed ASG to utilize that funding as part of the Territory's Recovery Plan as approved by the US Treasury. Up until this reporting period (ending June 30, 2023), the amounts were not included in the overall award total for American Samoa. That has changed on the portal, however, and it has created some issues in reporting expenditures. Since those funds were not previously included in American Samoa's reportable total, the expenditures from past reporting periods cannot be adequately reflected, although they are documented. Since we are unable to report on expenditures outside the current reporting period and the total amount now reflects NEUs and Counties disbursement, the total cumulative expenditures will be reported on from here forward. Annual reports will reflect the total amount spent from the time funds were received from the US Treasury.

Attempts have been made to address this issue via feedback and emails to the US Treasury but there has been no response to date.

## Project Inventory

**ARPA Project Name: New Hospital Facility, Fagaalu Hospital Improvements and Expansion, and Enhance Healthcare Workforce Capacity**

**ARPA FUND AMOUNT: \$300,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00301-2022; SLFRF-T-A00302-2022; SLFRF-T-A00303-2022**

<b>1.7</b>	<b>Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)</b>
------------	--

**Departments: LBJ Hospital Authority, Department of Health, Medicaid Office & Office of the Governor**

**Timeline for implementation: 2-3 years**

From the American Samoa share of the SLFRF, the American Samoa Medical Center Authority (ASMCA) doing business as LBJ Tropical Medical Center (LBJTMC) was awarded \$300,000,000.00. However, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 the government plans to build a new forty (40) bed hospital project was redirected to the Steering Construction and Management Committee headed by the Director of Department of Health (-\$200,000,000.00). Total award for the LBJTMC is now \$100,000,000.00

With this new redirection, LBJ Tropical Medical Center has requested consideration of an "addendum proposal" for reprogramming/restructuring of the resources that would permit LBJTMC to make necessary adjustments to its infrastructure improvements based on the newly revised award amount of \$100,000,000.00. The addendum proposal shall and will uphold all terms and conditions of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Notably, the addendum proposal is imperative for the hospital facility to accommodate the challenges brought on by the pandemic which is the inability of LBJ to provide Covid-19 related services because of the deteriorating infrastructure and poor condition of electrical and mechanical systems that are in need of repair. The present facility was not constructed to meet the challenges of disasters such as the Covid-19 pandemic, or the CMS standards, or life safety codes. The hospital's infrastructure is nearing 60 years old and maintaining a hospital like LBJ is costly. The aging facility has seen its share of natural disasters and has altered areas to accommodate timely changes through the years. Equally, as new services are added, spaces are lessened from other services to provide needed space for new services, and Covid-19 is no exception.

### Use of Funds

Areas of Focus Below is a brief description of how LBJTMC has or plans to use SLFRF in six expenditure categories as provided by the rules and regulations:

LBJTMC remains committed to protecting the health of the public, government employees, and individuals that rely on LBJTMC's services. Therefore, LBJTMC will use SLFRF to keep LBJTMC's services operational and accessible while providing the safest environment possible as the community continues to manage the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. LBJTMC has partnered with several other community agencies and organizations to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the Territory. SLFRF also supported a program to distribute vaccines to homebound residents and assisted living facilities. Additional details on these projects can be found in the Project Inventory section of this report.



## **Promoting equitable outcomes**

### Overview

The current approach for LBJTMC utilizing the SLFRF is to ensure the funds are spent in a broad-based manner so the greatest numbers of patients are benefited. This approach will be used by providing patients with medical care that is highly accessible and designed to serve the largest number of residents possible. LBJTMC also worked with community partners to assist the most at-risk residents. Further, any future program design will prioritize ease of navigation, accessibility, and administrative simplification. This will make sure SLFRF are delivered quickly and efficiently while minimizing bureaucratic hurdles.

### **Areas of Focus**

LBJTMC is approaching the use of SLFRF while focusing on the following areas:

a) Goals:

These projects are interdependent on one another and performing them in isolation would fail to substantially improve the quality and resiliency of the medical critical care infrastructure in the Territory. However, many of these projects will benefit Qualified Census Tracts and other historically underserved groups, thereby improving quality of life in disproportionately impacted communities.

b) Awareness: SLFRF awareness has been promoted by openly discussing the use of SLFRF during public meetings of LBJTMC proposed projects and also receiving feedback from various constituent groups. The Territory's community officials are exploring a variety of tools and resources that will ensure programs designed and implemented with SLFRF will be promoted widely to maximize awareness.

c) Access and Distribution: LBJTMC is still considering and reviewing various program designs within the eligible expenditure categories of the SLFRF. However, any such program designs will emphasize the importance of being accessible to a variety of residents and patients while serving their practical needs.

d) Outcomes: At this time, LBJTMC is focusing on using SLFRF to improve the Care System in a broad based, community wide public health and economic recovery effort that will focus on reaching universal levels of service by benefiting the greatest number of eligible residents, businesses, and community groups. Also, funds will be used to continue delivering County services despite the disruptions brought by the pandemic.

LBJTMC will continue to prioritize the SLFRF guidelines that reach residents and communities most in need of assistance. LBJTMC understands the disparate impacts of the pandemic, with some communities and groups experiencing greater levels of economic and public health impacts. LBJTMC's goal is to analyze and understand these impacts in the coming months and use this information to deploy SLFRF in a manner that maximizes.

### **Additional Priorities**

Impending Addendum Proposal submission is to request reprogramming of resources and activities to reflect the true nature of and the necessity to operate this award to its fullest potential. LBJTMC seeks to amplify the reality of certain conditions on the ground with respect to LBJTMC's gross shortfall in space and the extreme lack of resources to prosecute this project in a satisfactory manner. In short, LBJTMC requests the redirection of the initial addendum to restructure our Faga'alu projects according to the allotted funding.

LBJTMC prioritizes SLFRF other goals to facilitate the economic recovery in American Samoa while also benefiting communities that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The reprioritizing includes;

- a) **Negative Economic Impacts:** As detailed earlier, LBJTMC will design projects to address the negative economic impacts brought by the pandemic. Creating critical source to the residents seeking health care and emergency services will be a primary goal of any such program.
- b) **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities:** The SLFRF provide an opportunity for a once in a generation investment in community critical care infrastructure needs. LBJTMC's goal is to use the SLFRF to improve community infrastructure, including areas that are historically disadvantaged. Critical patient care emphasis
  - a. Combining Resources for Urgent Care
    - Merging ICU and ER projects as a single location
  - b) Removing least critical projects
    - Removing Hyperbaric/MIS from ICU project

LBJTMC has taken an ideal approach to deploying SLFRF, which will allow the Utility to design projects that use a quantifiable procedure to promote equitable outcomes for residents. The intent is to use SLFRF in a manner that is evidence driven and is capable of capturing data after the fact in order to conduct program evaluation. Programs that take this approach often maximize the benefits brought by public funds. This approach requires time for research and development as well as community input; therefore, many of the considered uses of the SLFRF are still in the exploratory phase.

### **Community Engagement**

Currently, LBJTMC has had several community inputs regarding the use of SLFRF. Elected officials that represent the residents of the Territory have also been in communication with LBJTMC officials to propose various uses of these funds. LBJTMC Management has based its SLFRF projects on all valuable inputs and safety of our Territory's resident's public safety.

### **Labor Practices**

Infrastructure related and other SLFRF projects will support local businesses by providing them the opportunity to bid on contracts. LBJTMC will award bids and enter into contracts as outlined in the Federal and local American Samoa Laws and Administrative Codes. Any sub-recipient of the SLFRF funds will also be required to follow the guidelines. This process increases participation and transparency in the award and contracting process. Further, LBJTMC will adhere to American Samoa's prevailing wage rates as set forth by the American Samoa Government for SLFRF projects when applicable. This will support strong wage rates for labor and help promote an equitable recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Use of Evidence**

The rules and regulations provided by the Department of The Treasury emphasize the use of evidence for certain SLFRF supported projects. LBJTMC will ensure all are supported by evidence and have a proven record of success to;

- a. Making improvements to facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical operational improvements to public hospitals or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

- b. Hiring personnel for roles that may range from senior leadership positions to early career or entry-level positions and to support key administrative functions.
- c. Making investments in current local health department employees: grow the workforce through training, professional development in leadership

The intended outcomes are to strengthen hospital infrastructure, including the health workforce. Grant funds are awarded to LBJTMC include following activities:

- a. Better prepare the territory for COVID-19 variants and other pandemics by providing exceptional service to the Territory of American Samoa.
- b. Enable hospital of expansion in its primary units due to its gross shortfall in space to better accommodate the territory in any health pandemics or natural disasters
- c. Reduce waiting time to minimize patient complaints of satisfactory deliverance of health services.
- d. Improve quality of patient care and investment in Tele-health/Telemedicine, Electronic Health Record (E.H.R.) system for efficient deliverance of quality care.

**Project Inventory**

Project [Identification Number]: LBJTMC New Medical Facility Project 7209.001

Funding amount: \$12,893,987.00

Project Expenditure Category: A00302, Construction & Equipment

Project ID	Project Name	Obligation		Expenses	
		Current Period	Cumulative Period	Current Period	Cumulative Period
LBJ-C-1	Hospital (New Hospital, Tafuna)	1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	\$200,000,000.00	LBJ C-1 \$424,730.55	LBJ C-1 \$424,730.55
LBJ-B-1	ICU, MIS, HB (Expansion – Faga’alu)	1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	\$50,000,000.00	n/a	n/a
LBJ-A-1	Recruitment	1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	\$50,000,000.00	n/a	n/a
LBJ-A-2 LBJ-A-3	Retention (re)Training				

**Project Overview**

**Project Objectives**

**Project 1 – Faga’alu Expansions** to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic

- Provide up-to-date ICU, MIS, ER, Dialysis and HB facilities to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Provide expansion for operations and training
- Provide the consolidation of services to prevent Covid-19 spread throughout the facility lacking sufficient space
- Expand the hospital current cooling and dehumidification capability through increased chiller capacity

- Provide for increased emergency generator capacity in an environmentally protected enclosure
- Expand the ER capacity for exams
- Provide isolation capacity in the waiting and treatment rooms
- Expand the Dialysis treatment capacity
- Increase the Isolation treatment capacity
- Relocate OB/Gyn to accommodate the Dialysis expansion

Project 1	Faga’alu Expansion
Funding Amount	\$50,000,000.00
Project Eligibility Category	Public Health
Project Expenditure Category	EC 1.7 Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
Project Overview	
Dollar amount of total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions	To be determined. As of 31 March 2023, no expenditures have been recorded for this project.

**Project 2 – New 40 Bed-Hospital/Medical Office in Tafuna**

- Build a new 40 bed hospital on the western side of the island where the majority of the population lives
- Provide access to care to combat the Covid-19 pandemic
- Expand healthcare service capacity, diagnostic capabilities and treatment protocols in the Territory to respond efficiently for the Covid-19 pandemic
- Harden the healthcare system in the Territory against environmental disasters through diversification of treatment locations
- To support staff in the efforts to provide the highest level of care for the patients

<b>Project 2</b>	<b>New 40 Bed Hospital / Medical Office in Tafuna</b>
Funding Amount	\$200,000,000.00
Project Eligibility Category	Public Health
Project Expenditure Category	EC 1.7 Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
<b>Project Overview</b>	
Dollar amount of total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions	<b>As of 30 June 2023, \$424,730.55 in expenditures has been recorded for this project.</b>

**Project 3 – Staffing Recruitment, Retention and (re)Training for both Faga’alu and Tafuna LBJTMC sites**

- Improve and strengthen healthcare workers capacity

- Enhance the skillset and knowledge of all staff to provide improved services to the beneficiaries of the hospital as it relates to the Covid-19 and public health emergency response and pandemic
- Improve the access and quality of healthcare services
- Augment medical physicians, providers, nursing, clinical and support staff for both LBJTMC sites (Faga’alu and Tafuna)

<b>Project 1</b>	<b>Faga’alu Expansion</b>
Funding Amount	\$50,000,000.00
Project Eligibility Category	Public health & economic impacts
Project Expenditure Category	EC 1.7 Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
Project Overview	
Dollar amount of total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions	To be determined. As of 31 March 2023, no expenditures have been recorded for this project.

### **Project Demographic Distribution**

The American Samoa healthcare system is a disproportionately and disadvantageously impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic for many low- or moderate-income households and populations. Even without the pandemic, American Samoa would need upgraded medical facilities to properly meet the needs of the people. The American Samoa public health emergency declaration and the Federal Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance revealed the immediate need to retrofit the existing facility to ensure the reliable flow of critical healthcare services while responding to the adjustments required addressing COVID-19. The hospital’s facilities needed immediate modifications to accommodate the required separation of Covid-19 treatment areas. Such factors put a strain on available space and resources both financially and operationally.

The LBJ Tropical Medical Center is the only acute healthcare provider hospital in American Samoa which serves its population of approximately 50,000 residents and is located in the central part of the island of Tutuila in the village of Faga’alu. The hospital serves people from the main island of Tutuila, Aunu’u and the Manu’a Islands (Ta’u, Olosega, and Ofu). The need for strengthening medical treatment and services is dire. These ARPA funds will allow the hospital to provide more access to healthcare for recovery and ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The projects that the LBJTMC hospital will engage in are designed to better combat COVID-19 and mitigate issues to increase the ability for the hospital’s response against the pandemic.

### **New ICU, MIS, Hyperbaric Treatment Facilities**

The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed healthcare facilities around the world. Intensive Care Units are hit the hardest during the pandemic. The Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Medical Information System (MIS), and Hyperbaric Expansion at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center has been envisioned to replace the existing ICU room which consists of 6 beds in a common room separated by privacy curtains. The existing ICU facility is under capacity and ill equipped to provide the current standards of care and patient isolation required for such a facility.



This expansion will result in a first-floor area of 14,633 square feet (SF) with an all-weather entry canopy of 6,334SF. The second floor ICU will cover 18,600SF, and the mechanical penthouse will be 9,000 SF. In addition, this expansion will require the installation of two elevators capable of carrying a patient gurney.

The proposed location for this addition will displace the current MIS operations as well as the patient administrative services related to patient check-in, waiting and payment. The new facility will need to accommodate these services in an expanded capacity as well as provide space for security, conference / training / education, and nurses' services, all of which currently have very limited space resources, and a new hyperbaric department.

The addition of a hyperbaric treatment facility, utilizing two hyperbaric chambers, addresses a significant need on the island for treating conditions where oxygen therapy can provide lifesaving outcomes. Such a facility puts a great demand on the oxygen reserves of the hospital, which is currently fed from a tank farm. The resulting oxygen demand and tank changes related to hyperbaric operations will place a significant cost and labor burden on the hospital

This expansion project also takes into consideration the current Covid-19 pandemic and its necessary emergency use and/or re-designation as necessary for acute Covid care.

The new central plant has been conceptually designed as a two-story building located at the rear of the hospital with the first-floor housing mechanical systems (four chillers, a boiler / pump room, oxygen generator / O2 pump, liquid oxygen tank room, and (2) 1000 kVA emergency generators. Since container storage units will be displaced with this central plant addition, the first floor will also house a receiving dock and office with a modular lift to transport supplies to the second level, where a storage area for 144 pallets is located. This storage area can accommodate the existing lack of storage issue due to Covid-19 preparations and response. The second level will also have 4 maintenance facility offices, toilets, break area and the primary 208/480V, 3 phase electrical service entrance equipment. The surrounding site will support two new cooling towers, two electrical transformers and a new ASPA transfer switch. A utility canopy will be extended from this building to carry chilled and hot water as well as power and oxygen piping into the main hospital.

The increased demand for 100 percent outside air / 100 percent exhaust environments within the various treatment and isolation areas, associated with highly contagious patient care, specifically Covid-19, creates additional burden on the existing central plant's capacity. The planned ICU project will require all of the remaining central plant capacity, leaving no redundant capacity to address a systems component failure. Such failures are aggravated by the remote location of this facility and the long lead times related to equipment replacement.

Additionally, there will be no surplus central plant capacity, after the ICU project becomes operational, to address planned expansions and renovations. As such, this improvement is essential to expanding the building systems capacity in order to re-establish resilience in the hospital's systems and provide capacity for the expansion of hospital services necessary to meet the needs of the Samoan community.

The new Central Plant consists of 4,827 SF of equipment area on the first floor and 4,150 SF of storage/offices/electrical equipment on the second floor and will have (4) 300-ton Chillers totaling 1200 tons with (3) Chillers being full time operational and (1) as back up. The Central Plant will also consist of (2) 600-ton Cooling Towers, the Oxygen Generator, a Heating Hot Water Boiler, as well as a new 480V Electrical Distribution System that will serve all future large electrical loads.

### **Emergency Room (ER)**

The Emergency Room (ER) Department at LBJTMC is already unable to efficiently handle the number of ER patients. The Department has only 11 actual beds, 2 bench spaces and all the rest of the patients have to sit in chairs or stand while receiving cases seen annually and wait times for patients exceed 2 hours throughout the day. With the number of COVID cases, it is impossible to provide adequate patient care with the current ER facility, which can result in a steep mortality and morbidity numbers.

The current infrastructure of the LBJ-TMC hospital is in a state of failure due to age and environmental exposure. Expanding and upgrading the LBJTMC Emergency Department, building with more bed space and individual rooms will offer increased care options with more efficiency, privacy and isolation capability. It would enlarge trauma and critical care facilities and in the event of a pandemic, local epidemic or natural disaster, it would be more capable of meeting a surge in patient demand.

The proposal is to expand the LBJ-TMC Emergency Department into the current ambulance bay area, the mechanical space between the ED and the Pharmacy addition and as far toward the access road as feasible. The size of the ED should at least be doubled and designed to improve patient flow, with larger work spaces, upgraded infrastructure, and removal of non-functioning equipment, mold contamination, failing plumbing, electrical, etc.

### **Staffing**

LBJ-TMC is experiencing hardship in accommodating the present needs in the community and why this proposal is critical to properly provide critical and much needed services. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly and disproportionately impacted the healthcare service system of American Samoa. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, American Samoa's healthcare system struggled with staffing the current hospital with U.S. board certified medical providers, U.S. ancillary/clinical providers, and U.S. nurses (specialist included) for many years. Recruitment and retention have been negatively impacted because of the Covid-19 pandemic and public health emergency. With two upcoming hospital facilities to provide adequate staffing, there will be more tension and demand to provide acute care and Covid-19 related services.

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration presented a lot of challenges which impacted everyone in American Samoa socially, economically and medically. As the ASMSA is the only healthcare provider in American Samoa, closing of our borders became a huge problem since 30% of our patients are usually transferred to Hawaii for specialize care or treatment. With the restricted travel and border closure since the offset of the pandemic, equipment has gone uncertified, unrepaired and some needs to be replaced. There are no local specialists to provide the needed services for the hospital. The last CMS surveys continue to cite the lack of qualified and credentialed personnel to provide services, patient care, and medical treatment for hospital operations.

Accessibility to healthcare can be realized if there is sufficient staffing (specialized inclusive) employed at LBJTMC to avoid a tsunami of labor challenges that will be brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The shortages of healthcare providers and nurses in the United States have a direct negative impact on the ability for recruitment for American Samoa.

The demand for healthcare workers in American Samoa far supersedes the local workforce pool available and there is a need to amplify the supply of healthcare professionals. The Covid-19 public health emergency in American Samoa and the restricted travel has been a very challenging impediment with strengthening the hospital recruitment and retention. There are not enough nurses, medical physicians, ancillary and clinical providers in American Samoa. The regulated travel into the territory and the lack of the available local individuals with the needed skillset and credentials remains to be a challenge for LBJTMC’s recruitment and retention efforts.

**Project Status:**

The LBJ Tropical Medical Center projects are still going through required federal procurement process and have mostly not been expensed.

Project Name	Subaward ID	Obligation		Expenses	
		Current Period	Cumulative Period	Current Period	Cumulative Period
LBJTMC Personnel	A0011()-2022	Jan. 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023	N/A	Jan. 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023	N/A
LBJTMC New Medical Facility  Architect Hawaii Ltd (AHL):	A0011()-2022	Apr. 1, 2023 – Jun. 30, 2023	Jan. 1, 2023 – Jun. 30, 2023	\$295,790.68	\$424,730.55
LBJTMC Faga’alu Expansion	A0011() – 2022	Jan. 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023	N/A	Jan. 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023	N/A

**Programmatic Data:**

**New 40 Bed Hospital Revised Timeline - Challenges**

- Pre-Design & Concept Phase – 28 November 2022 to 24 March 2023
- Schematic Design Phase – 7 April 2023 – 23 June 2023
- Design Development Phase – 17 July 2023 to 27 November 2023
- Construction Documents Phase – 11 December 2023 to 12 July 2024
- Bidding & Negotiation Phase – 15 July 2024 to 16 September 2024
- Permitting Phase – 15 July 2024 to 11 October 2024
- Construction Phase – 14 October 2024 to 31 December 2026

Construction Commencement Date – 14 October 2024  
 3-D Model – 30 June 2023

Project ID	Project Name	Obligation		Expenses	
		Current Period	Cumulative Period	Current Period	Cumulative Period
LBJ-C-1	Hospital (New Hospital, Tafuna)	1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	\$200,000,000.00	LBJ C-1 \$424,730.55	10 April 2022 to 30 June 2023
LBJ-B-1	ICU, MIS, HB (Expansion – Faga’alu)	1 January 2023 to March 2023	\$50,000,000.00	n/a	10 April 2022 to 31 March 2023
LBJ-A-1	Recruitment	1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	\$50,000,000.00	n/a	10 April 2022 to 31 March 2023
LBJ-A-2	Retention				
LBJ-A-3	(re)Training				

**ARPA Project Name: Behavioral Health Services & Drug and Alcohol Facility**  
**ARPA Funds: \$24,000,000.00**  
**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00909-2023**

<b>1.12</b>	<b>Behavioral Health Services</b>	<b>\$24,000,000.00</b>
-------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------

**Department of Health**

**Timeline for implementation: 1-2 years**

The American Samoa Department of Health was awarded \$24,000,000.00 dollars by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund the Behavioral Health Project. These public health projects will build a new Behavioral Health Facility and renovate the vet clinic facility to provide for additional and enhanced health services. This funding will allow ASDOH to establish data-driven decision-making processes to assess community needs to solidify American Samoa's overall recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

To maximize the use of programmatic data to ensure an effective and efficient outcome to meet our population's health care needs. ASDOH will be able to identify and address all issues related to COVID-19 emergencies. With the use of these funds ASDOH plans to upgrade modules to the current EHR system in behavioral health services, the addition of personnel and new equipment for the operation of services. All projects include mitigation plans of service delivery that promote safe and effective measures during provision of care to the community. These mitigation plans include increasing square footage to avoid crowding and promote safe social distancing, easy access to COVID19 testing as needed, as well as enhanced virtual communications (i.e., telemedicine mechanisms, telehealth etc.) to better serve populations at higher risk. The expansion projects aim to improve prevention and intervention which will effectively serve a larger population at no or minimal cost.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

Low-income families in American Samoa have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities like low-wage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic.

The COVID19 pandemic exposed American Samoa's lack of infrastructures and programs. The negative economic impact of COVID19 overwhelmed underserved areas of American Samoa and with the lack of infrastructure it contributes to more negative health outcomes because of the difficulty in accessing services. The American Samoa Department of Health is invested in ensuring any programs enacted using ARPA funding are conducted equitably. The ASDOH Behavioral Health Facility will support all underserved areas and vulnerable populations. By promoting equity in the underserved, marginalized and disadvantaged areas in the territory, this program will conduct outreach programs, program selection, implementation and program reporting processes.

Building up Behavioral Health Infrastructure will give American Samoa the tools necessary to provide adequate services for all people. A new facility will also allow for more programs and a wide range of services to address the health issues in all areas of the territory of American Samoa. In American Samoa there are many who live in remote locations that make receiving preventative and therapeutic services far more difficult.



## **Community Engagement**

The American Samoa Department of Health conducted community engagement by publishing proposed projects via local newspaper, radio and television to better understand the communities needs related to COVID19, its impacts and existing inequalities. A scope of work was also published online. The success of these projects depends on the assessment efforts in community engagement and collection of feedback from the American Samoa community. Additionally engaging with stakeholder groups that serve impacted communities and identify areas to expand/ prioritize services.

### **Project #1: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE AND DRUG & ALCOHOL REHABILITATION FACILITY**

**Funding Amount: \$23,010,000.00**

**Project Expenditure Category: [ 1.10, Mental Health Services] [1.11, Substance Use Services]**

#### **Project Overview:**

- Since COVID19 mitigation measures such as border closures, territorial wide curfews and halting all public gatherings there appeared to be a frequent reporting of domestic violence cases and suicide incidences. News reporting often noted some form of substance use. The DOH BHS collaborated with the DHSS as well as other private sector organizations including faith-based organizations, to provide a single access crisis line for the community to contact for mental health intervention and support.
- The Behavioral Health Service and Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Facility is a new facility that will provide treatment services and secured unit programs. The intent of building a Behavioral Health Services with a Drug & Alcohol Rehab Facility in one building is to allow easy access for all key mental health services to be located in a centralized location.
- Behavioral Health Addendum approved
- Request for Bidding forms in progress to adhere to the local procurement process.
- Pending Survey Locations

#### **Use of Evidence:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, the Territory of American Samoa declared a Public Health Emergency, implementing aggressive preventative measures to reduce the risk of the SARS CoV-2 entry or transmission in the community. Those measures included border closure, territorial wide curfews requiring most, if not all, business operations to cease at a certain time (e.g., 6pm), as well as halting all social and public gatherings. During this period of time, there was an increase in domestic violence cases and suicide rates.

### **Project #2 : VET CLINIC RELOCATION**

**Funding Amount: \$990,000.00**

**Project Expenditure Category: [1.12, Other Public Health Services]**

#### **Project Overview:**

The Vet Clinic Relocation project will assist with a major renovation of an existing facility that will house the Vet Clinic operation. The pet population plays a vital role in the mental health and well-being of the population. The current veterinary clinic is not well positioned to effectively handle the care and treatment of sick animals. This is causing issues with families that are struggling to care for their pets. The mental health aspect is cause for heightened

concern, but the current status of veterinary care will potentially increase risk of infectious disease spread among humans that could overwhelm the health clinics and hospitals.

- Vet Clinic addendum in progress for major renovation and pending letter from Governor's office to verify location.
- Pending Survey Location.
- Request for Bidding in progress for local procurement process.

### **Use of Evidence:**

The following data was gathered to evaluate the allocation of funding to this project:

- 76% of pet owners report that their personal health has improved as a result of owning a pet, up from 71% in 2016 (+5%)
- 87% of pet owners say that they have experienced mental health improvements from pet ownership, up from 74% in 2016 (+13%)
- 64% of pet owners have had a conversation with someone in the past year about the health benefits of pet ownership
- 36% of pet owners report discussing the health benefits of the human-animal bond with their doctor or therapist
- 22%, more than 1-in-5, pet owners have had a pet recommended for their health by a doctor or therapist
- 69% of pet owners would have a more favorable view of a doctor that discussed the health benefits of the human-animal bond with them, up from 65% in 2016 (+4%)
- 89% of pet owners agree that doctors should recommend pets to patients for healthier living

As this is a capital investment for a facility, data tracking will not be readily available until the clinic is up and running.

**ARPA Project Name: Village Community Health Centers**

**ARPA Funds: \$20,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00901-2023; SLFRF-T-A00902-2023; SLFRF-T-A00903-2023; SLFRF-T-A00904-2023; SLFRF-T-A00905-2023; SLFRF-T-A00906-2023; SLFRF-T-A00907-2023; SLFRF-T-A00908-2023**

<b>1.7</b>	<b>Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine</b>	<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>
------------	---	------------------------

**AS Department of Health**

**Timeline to implementation: 1-2 years**

The American Samoa Department of Health was awarded \$20,000,000.00 dollars by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund the 7 Community Health Center Projects. These public health projects will build and/or renovate existing facilities to provide for additional and enhanced health services. This funding will allow ASDOH to establish data-driven decision-making processes to assess community needs to solidify American Samoa's overall recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

**Use of Funds**

To maximize the use of programmatic data to ensure an effective and efficient outcome to meet our population's health care needs. ASDOH will be able to identify and address all issues related to COVID-19 emergencies. With the use of these funds ASDOH plans to provide an addition of personnel and space spread across all clinics and with the expansion of our current lab services. All projects include mitigation plans of service delivery that promote safe and effective measures during provision of care to the community. These mitigation plans include increasing square footage to avoid crowding and promote safe social distancing, easy access to COVID19 testing as needed, as well as enhanced virtual communications (i.e., telemedicine mechanisms, telehealth etc.) to better serve populations at higher risk. The expansion projects aim to improve prevention and intervention which will effectively serve a larger population at no or minimal cost.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

Low-income families in American Samoa have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities like low-wage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic.

The COVID19 pandemic exposed American Samoa's lack of infrastructures and programs. The negative economic impact of COVID19 overwhelmed underserved areas of American Samoa and with the lack of infrastructure it contributes to more negative health outcomes because of the difficulty in accessing services. The American Samoa Department of Health is invested in ensuring any programs enacted using ARPA funding are conducted equitably. The ASDOH Community Health Center supports all underserved areas and vulnerable populations. By promoting equity in the underserved, marginalized and disadvantaged areas in the territory, this program will conduct outreach programs, program selection, implementation and program reporting processes.

These new facilities will allow for more programs and a wide range of services to address the health issues in all areas of the territory of American Samoa. In American Samoa there are

many who live in remote locations that make receiving preventative and therapeutic services far more difficult. Community health centers are the most effective way to get care to these low-income families and reduce some of their burden of traveling far to receive basic healthcare.

### **Community Engagement**

The American Samoa Department of Health conducted community engagement by publishing proposed projects via local newspaper, radio and television to better understand the communities needs related to COVID19, its impacts and existing inequalities. A scope of work was also published online. The success of these projects depends on the assessment efforts in community engagement and collection of feedback from the American Samoa community. Additionally engaging with stakeholder groups that serve impacted communities and identify areas to expand/ prioritize services.

### **Use of Evidence**

The ASDOH plan to align evaluation of ARPA funded projects with strategic goals that will meet project success.

### **Performance Report**

All project progress is tracked using a reliable software called the Click-up project management software. This program is utilized by the ASDOH ARPA Team for all progress, team assignment, documents, and budget monitoring as well as having real-time dashboard that covers budget costs for each project. Each project will be closely monitored and regularly updated via project tasks and important data.

Project 1: Laboratory Conversion

Funding amount: \$2,705,829.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.16, Infrastructure - Broadband: "Last Mile Projects"]

Project Overview

- Protection for laboratory personnel, the environment and the local community must be considered and ensured when handling infectious agents. The protections required by autoclave related-activities are defined as biosafety levels. Biological safety levels are ranked from one to four. ASDOH aims to remodel/convert the current laboratory to become a Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) Laboratory facility. The remaining work to be completed is the installation of the new HVAC and Negative Pressure System for the laboratory.
- The change order for the Laboratory Conversion Project is in progress to adhere to the local procurement process to complete remaining work.

PROJECT #2 : OFU AND OLOSEGA CLINIC

Funding Amount : \$2,375,565.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.17, Infrastructure- Other Projects]

Project Overview :

- The Ofu and Olosega Clinic is a renovation and remodel of an existing facility. The renovation/ remodel involves the addition of a nurse's station, COVID19 testing/waiting area, and additional clinics (i.e. dental, prenatal, well-baby, and diabetes).
- Project planning and implementation.
- Addendum in progress for land lease agreement.
- Request for Bidding in progress to adhere to local procurement process.

### PROJECT #3: COVID19 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Funding Amount : \$2,563,094.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.17, Infrastructure- Other Projects]

#### Project Overview:

- The COVID19 Administration Building will house the ASDOH's COVID-19 and CHCs Administration. This will include information specialists, executive administrators for CHC, a conference room for training and COVID19 response team briefings and meetings.
- Project planning and implementation.
- Addendum in progress for combining projects.
- Request for Bidding in progress to adhere to local procurement process.

### PROJECT #4: AUNUU COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Funding Amount: \$2,415,048.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.17, Infrastructure- Broadband Other Projects]

#### Project Overview:

- The Aunuu Community Health Clinic is a new single-story construction. This building will be fully equipped with medical personnel, equipment, and supplies to address the healthcare needs of Aunuu residents and solidify the ASDOH response to COVID19 public health emergencies. The Aunuu CHC will also provide accommodations for visiting doctors and nurses, diabetic clinic, dental clinic, well baby and prenatal clinic, emergency generator, medical storage space to assist the residents of Aunuu Island.
- Project planning and implementation.
- Addendum in progress for land lease agreement.
- Request for Bidding in progress to adhere to local procurement process.

### PROJECT #5: TA'U COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Funding Amount: \$ 2,789,225.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.17, Infrastructure, Broadband: Other Projects]

#### Project Overview:

- The Ta'u Community Health Clinic is a new construction due to the relocation of the existing Ta'u from the unsafe tsunami zone to a new higher location in the hills of Ta'u. This new clinic will include housing facilities for the residence doctor and visiting nurses and various health programs. The facility will be equipped with the latest Health Clinic furniture and equipment and ADA accessible.
- Project planning and implementation.
- Addendum in progress for land lease agreement.
- Request for Bidding in progress to adhere to local procurement process.

### Project #6: FITIUTA MEDICAL EXPANSION

Funding Amount: \$398,945.00

Project Expenditure Category: [5.17, Infrastructure- Broadband: Other Projects]



Project Overview:

- The Fitiuta medical expansion project is a renovation of the Fitiuta airport to convert part of the airport into a medevac holding station that will be equipped with an assessment or triage station and physician's office. This renovation will allow the DOH CHC to provide an extension of its healthcare services to the residents of Fitiuta. This medical holding facility will be staffed by the DOH CHC.
- Project planning and implementation.
- Request for Bidding in progress to adhere to local procurement process.

Project #7: AUNUU & MANU'A MEDICAL EVACUATION VESSEL

Funding Amount: \$770,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: [1.12, Other Public Health Services]

Project Overview:

The project will be a custom build a COVID19 critical patient medevac, safely transport vaccines and medical supplies and staff from Aunuu and the Manu'a islands to LBJ Hospital on Tutuila at any given time an emergency arises. Currently flights are chartered to Manu'a to transport patients. For the island of Aunuu, residents must travel through the Aunuu channel for health care services at the Amouli Health Center or travel onward to the main hospital LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The medical evacuation vessel will be utilized to transport critical patients directly from Aunuu to Fagaalu where the Emergency Medical Services will await the patient's arrival to be taken to the LBJ emergency room. DOH is conducting research for recommendations for the most appropriate type of vessel.

**ARPA Project Name: Non-profit Assistance Program (NAP)**

**ARPA Funds: \$4,500,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00121-2022**

<b>EC 2.34</b>	<b>Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)</b>	<b>\$4,500,000.00</b>
----------------	---	-----------------------

**AS Criminal Justice Planning Agency**

**Timeline to implementation: 3 months to 18 months**

**Overview**

The CJP Agency has awarded grant funds to 22 different nonprofit organizations that have met all qualifications and have provided proof of need from the general public for their services. The funds will help the nonprofit organizations get back to normal operations or enhanced operations while continuing in the new norm of living with COVID 19. Some of the major projects range from updating a 24-hour care facility for incapacitated adults; purchasing custom wheelchairs for physically challenged young adults; and purchasing equipment to help victims of domestic and sexual crimes. There are also a few projects catering to the enhancements of educational services for school children. All of these services are aimed to serve the various communities with specific needs that the government cannot.

**Project Objectives**

- Determine nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status with registered articles of incorporation at the Territorial Registrar’s Office
- Identify said nonprofit organizations that provide services and/or products that are needed in the community that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Determine how much of grant funds to award to nonprofit organizations depending on grant proposals and support documentation
- Verify that these nonprofit organizations have the capacity to carry out usage of grant funds for their needs to return to normal operations or enhance their services to the community
- Ensure that the funds will be awarded to the approved nonprofit organizations through the already established procurement process of the American Samoa Government for proper record keeping and reporting purposes

The Non-profit Assistance Program (NAP) is structured to operate as a grantor to local non-profit organizations of American Samoa. These non-profits must also adhere to the requirement of having their articles of incorporation registered with the local Territorial Registrar’s Office to verify that they are an entity that operates locally. This also ensures that monies granted will be expended for the local community. The NAP will operate in adherence to all local American Samoa Government laws and procurement processes. The ultimate objective is help non-profit organizations resume normal operations in the midst of the pandemic with the hope that they will be able to enhance their services to the public in the near future.

<b>Nonprofit Organization</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Village/Location</b>	<b>Description of Project</b>
Alofa Tunoa Samoa Medical Supply	\$91,500	Tafuna	"Chairing is Caring" to provide at least 10 customized chairs to physically challenged people with specific needs.
Parents of Children with Special Needs	\$100,000	Nu'uuli	To secure a space for the organization where they can provide services to people with special needs and their parents
American Samoa Legal Aid	\$52,000	Pago Pago	To secure office supplies and equipment for their organization that offers legal advice to low-income people & people with no income
Harvest Vision Church Inc.	\$20,000	Tafuna	To carry out project of feeding families in need of safe and edible food
American Samoa Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	\$60,000	Tafuna	To secure office supplies and equipment to continue providing services to the victims of domestic and sexual violence and to renovate and update the office area.
Pala Lagoon Swimming Center Inc.	\$68,200	Tafuna	For cleaning supplies and renovations of the "kiddie pool" to continue providing a safe community pool for children to enjoy
Intersections Inc.	\$50,000	Iliili	To purchase equipment and instruments for their program in preserving our heritage through the art of dance. And to allow an event that will showcase what the youth has learned.
American National Red Cross	\$25,000	Tafuna	To ensure utilities and rent are secured for at least 3

			years for this nonprofit organization
Back on Track	\$50,000	Nu'uuli	To purchase office equipment and supplies and to help fund new services that will complement
Tualatai I – Drug Free Coalition	\$75,000	Tafuna	To purchase computers and other office supplies for new computer lab and to help with rent & utilities
Friends of the Museum of American Samoa	\$50,372	Fagatogo	To cover lost revenue due to COVID and to digitize their collection of art/artifacts
Agency for Better Living Endeavors (ABLE)	\$100,000	Fagatogo	To cover lost revenue due to COVID, purchase necessary office equipment and supplies & to cover event-related costs (non-personnel)
Nature's Educational Laboratory of American Samoa, Inc.	\$40,000	Fagatogo	To purchase office supplies and assist with rent and utility expenses
The James Christopher Foeoletini Ledoux Foundation	\$100,000	Utulei	To cover lost revenue due to COVID (non-personnel); purchase office equipment, supplies & cloud-based applications subscription.
Marion Elmer Liki Reed II Foundation	\$40,000	Fagatogo	To renovate space for food pantry project and purchase COVID prevention items
American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition	\$47,500	Nu'uuli	To help fund portions of their "Ili mai le foafoa" project, specifically, marketing & advertising costs. Project is to gather statistics on COVID in the community
Hope House	\$2,900,000	Tafuna	For renovations and upgrading a wing of the facility to be COVID compliant for terminally-ill patients and some added personnel

Le Fetuao Samoan Language Center	Declined.		Nonprofit organization is physically located in the state of Hawaii. No registered articles of incorporation here at the local Territorial Registrar's Office.
CCCAS Nua & Seetaga	\$175,000	Nua & Seetaga	For renovations of hall and to include HVAC units to make building COVID friendly
Oceania Community Development of Network	\$71,000	Pago Pago	To purchase office supplies and some office equipment for American Samoa Promise Initiative: Family Connections project. To assist with facility rent and utilities.
CCCAS Pago Pago	Declined.		Proposal was vague and did not have a project that qualified.
CCCAS Aoa	\$85,000	Aoa	For renovations of hall and to include HVAC units to make building COVID-friendly
CCCAS Kanana Fou	\$250,000	Leone	For renovations of Housing Complex in Leone consisting of 2 1-bedroom dwelling and 3 2-bedroom dwelling in hopes of helping with the housing shortage and to have another potential quarantine site for if another pandemic outbreak occurs
CCCAS Amanave	\$100,000	Amanave	For office equipment and supplies to for internet café project along with COVID prevention supplies for the "God is Love" project

- All MOA's have been signed by all parties and submitted to the ARPA Oversight office.
- All 22 award grantees have completed the Purchase Order forms and submitted to the Procurement Office



- All 22 award grantees have been identified by the Department of Treasury and have been granted “vendor ID’s” which means that they are recognized parties in the ASG finance system currently used
- 1 of the subrecipients has completed their entire project
- 17 of the subrecipients have begun spending their awarded funds and have their projects underway
- Almost 40% of the entire awarded funds has been encumbered and spent on both nonprofit projects and personnel

**ARPA Project Name: Business Recovery Capital Program (BRCP) - Revolving Line of Credit and BRCP Grants**

**ARPA Funds: Combined \$10,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00113-2021**

<b>2.29</b>	<b>Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
-------------	---	------------------------

**Department of Commerce**

**Timeline to implementation: Launched With Portions Complete and Ongoing Servicing Through 2026**

BRCP & CAP Introduction

Small to medium size businesses are the lifeline of the Territory's isolated economy and is a key to its livelihood. Any help DOC can provide will help ASG's response to the global COVID 19 pandemic restrictions.

The ARPA BRCP programs offered and managed by DOC is in 3 programs. All have been closed to any more funding.

1. The first offering in January 2022 was for the \$5 million revolving line of credit (RLOC);
2. The \$4 million in grants took place in February 2022.
3. \$2 million in the Cash Assistance Program in March 2022.
4. \$1 million in administrative assistance.

They were all in response to the negative impact of the pandemic on the local economy and businesses. The importance of strengthening and expanding our businesses is the goal and any assistance from ASG is welcomed by the business community.

**Uses of Funds**

Objectives

Support recovery and expansionary efforts of local businesses that were affected by the COVID restrictions. Due to lack of capital access, the businesses are considered the most underserved areas in our community.

Usage Status

The following table shows the current status of each project

<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
RLOC	Revolving Line of Credit	Disbursement complete, cont. monitoring through 2025
CAP	COVID	Completed 100%
Grants	Business Recovery Capital Program	Completed 100%

**Promoting equitable outcomes**

These programs are in an effort to promote equitable outcomes, including economic and racial equity in our business community.

The design and execution of these community business programs were to meet the following:

- a. **Goals:** Meet the needs of the local business community which are historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups by natural disasters and or pandemic events causing economic hardships.
- b. **Awareness:** We constantly engage with the public and recipients about the fruits of the program to their viability. The success of this awareness program will propel DOC to future assistance offerings to the business community.
- c. **Access and Distribution:** These programs are offered to all business owners including start-ups. As long as it is a viable plan and contributes to the wellbeing of our economy, anyone is eligible to apply and receive assistance.
- d. **Outcomes:** As related earlier, our assistance is available to our diverse and robust business community. Our core principals are built around businesses offering services to anyone regardless of prohibitive basis (i.e., race, ethnicity, etc.). We are tracking outcomes of our assistance to measure financial benefits on expanded business services locally.

### **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):**

- Assistance to small businesses, and non-profits has addressed the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations which is the majority of the Territory's residents. Our economy is isolated and vulnerable to natural disasters and devastating pandemics such as COVID 19.
- This includes capitalization of the businesses so they can offer assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment; who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic on residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities; services to provide long-term housing security and housing supports, address educational disparities, or provide child care and early learning services; and other strategies that provide impacted and disproportionately impacted communities with services to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. While the 2 biggest economic pillars here in the canneries and government, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar which is the business community that financial efforts should be focused on. These programs help greatly in that endeavor.

### **Community Engagement**

Before launching the response to COVID 19 recovery programs, DOC had numerous advertising and marketing programs alerting people about the availability of the program. This culminated with 2 public forum programs held in mid-to-eastern side (Lee Auditorium) and at DYWA Center in the western side. We also had various media (including TV, Radio and social media) programs designed to make applicants aware of the upcoming assistance.

We also engaged in periodic surveys and status reports to provide feedback on how the program is progressing and make adjustments for better implementation.

## Performance Report

We use our DOC website to communicate program particulars and updates, sources and uses of funds and to process payments

### PROJECT INVENTORY

#### **RLOC and Grant Programs administered by the Department of Commerce**

DOC ARPA Funding	Total Funding	Total Awarded & Obligated	Funding Balance	# of Applicants Funded
BRCP Grant	4,000,000	3,742,827	257,173	186
RLOC	5,000,000	4,250,000	750,000	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>7,992,827</b>	<b>1,007,173</b>	<b>209</b>

#### ARPA BRCP RLOC

The ARPA BRCP RLOC was launched January 2022 with an allocated budget of \$5 million. The approvals ranged from \$50k to \$250k with only 2 receiving the maximum of \$500k each. All facilities initially were one year revolver payable on demand. It had only one requirement which was a 30-day consecutive cleanup or non-usage clause. It could be renewed if the lending need is still warranted and clients comply with all conditions.

As we approach the one-year revolving term, only 2 were in full compliance and we are working on a renewal of the line for another year. Those not in compliance will have the line commitment cancelled and outstanding termed out until 12/31/26. The rate will increase to 6% and monthly principal and interest will be required.

The following table lists approved clients which includes building suppliers, contractors, restaurants, retail stores and wholesalers.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Available</u>
1 Aveia Inc.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 461,122.64	7/31/2023	\$ 38,877.36
2 CBT Ho Ching	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 488,612.46	7/31/2023	\$ 11,387.54
3 Triple T Services	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 241,834.28	7/31/2023	\$ 8,165.72
4 Young Electric Inc.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 146,945.75	7/31/2023	\$103,054.25
5 Silva Group Inc.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 247,726.50	7/31/2023	\$ 2,273.50
6 Filsam Development Corp.	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	\$ -0-	<b>Matured</b>	\$ -0-
7 Stevenson Trucking	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 146,945.75	7/31/2023	\$103,054.25

8 T&L Trymes	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>	\$ -0-	<b>Matured</b>	\$ -0-
<b>9 Le Max LLC (C/O)</b>	<b><u>\$ 50,000.00</u></b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>4/7/2023</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>
10 ANVEE Inc.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 246,903.60	7/31/2023	\$ 3,096.40
11 Samoa Sports	<u>\$ 150,000.00</u>	\$ -0-	<b>Matured</b>	\$ -0-
12 BSA Inc.	<u>\$ 150,000.00</u>	\$ -0-	<b>Matured</b>	\$ -0-
13 J & B Cang Inc.	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 52,709.00	7/31/2023	\$ 97,291.00
14 Stevenson Management	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 120,952.15	6/16/2023	\$129,047.85
15 Primo Builders	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 150,888.74	6/9/2023	\$ 24,111.26
16 Eveni Pacific	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 72,090.07	6/9/2023	\$ 2,909.93
17 TND Inc.	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 58,520.00	8/25/2023	\$ 91,480.00
18 DeeLee Inc. Drugstore	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 33,525.84	9/9/2023	\$ 16,475.16
19 Pacific Star Jade Rest.	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	9/9/2023	\$ -0-
20 Moana Chips	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 246,334.96	9/12/2023	\$ 3,665.04
21 Vailuu & Sons	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	9/15/2023	\$ -0-
22 AHY Young	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 68,291.60	9/30/2023	\$ 6,708.40
23 Fualelagi Plantation	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 967.89	9/30/2023	\$49,032.11
24 All Star Signs	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 47,927.79	11/29/2023	\$ 52,072.21
25 Mary's Homemade	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 9,598.09	10/14/2023	\$ 40,401.91
<b>Name</b>	<b><u>Commitment</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Maturity</u></b>	<b><u>Available</u></b>
26 JIP Pouesi	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 73,801.57	11/29/2023	\$ 700.37
27 Faleula O Samoa Const.	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 90,000	11/29/2023	\$ 10,000.00
28 Betham Consulting	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 56,724.90	10/28/2023	\$ 18,275.10
<b>29 Kooline Refrigeration</b>	<b><u>\$ 75,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -0-</u></b>	<b><u>12/1/2023</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 75,000.00</u></b>
Totals (less 6 Paid, C/O, Closed)	<u>\$ 4,250,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,132,892.23</u>		<u>\$1,117,107.77</u>

## Summary

TOTAL ACTIVE ACCOUNTS	23
TOTAL CLOSED/PAYOFF ACCTS	4
TOTAL CHARGE-OFF	1
RESCISSION	1
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	29
TOTAL APPROVED Commitments	\$ 4,250,000.00
OUTSTANDING BALANCE	\$ 3,132,892.23
PAYOFF TOTAL	\$ 500,000.00
CHARGEOFF TOTAL	\$ 50,000.00
RESCISSION	\$ 75,000.00
TOTAL INTEREST APR-JUN 23	\$ 45,447.61

### RLOC Status Comments

As of June 30, 2023, there were a total of 23 active; 2 paid off and closed (not to be renewed); 2 paid off and to be renewed; 1 charged-off; and 1 commitment expired and rescinded.

Total commitments were at \$4.25 million against outstanding balances of \$3.133 million. The one charge-off totaled \$50k. 2ea. ready for renewal totaled \$200k while the non-renewal (due to lack of activity previously) was \$300k and one rescission was for \$75k.

The total available for term-out was at \$3.133 which should be paid off via monthly reductions by 12/31/26. It is anticipated that with the term outs, the amounts needed for collateral deposit account will come down gradually.

It is the deposit account that we will track our exposure and revenues from the RLOC program. Thus, it is envisaged that the collateral will be dramatically reduced to around \$3.5 million when all term outs and renewals are done.

### ARPA BRCP GRANTS

This program was launched in February, 2022 settling on grants only up to \$25,000. The allocated budget is \$4 million. To date we gave out 186 awards totaling \$3,742,827. The grants awards are capped and until we get more funds.

Currently, we processing final draws before the annual maturity date for each award.

<u>#</u>	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Status</u>
37	\$ 743,000	Fully Funded and Completed Award
36	\$ 743,000	90% to 99% Funded
37	\$ 743,000	50% to 80% Funded
76	\$ 1,513,827	0% to 50% Funded



Grant Status Comments

As noted, 37 have been fully disbursed and we are processing the grant close-out procedures which include a final site inspection documented for the files.

The remaining 149 were sent letters indicating individual anniversary award dates and were given an additional up to a month grace period to fully utilized the funds or the draws will be closed and funds remitted back to the program. We will follow for closeout and report by September 30<sup>th</sup> as majority are coming due.

The summary of the ARPA CAP administered by the Department of Commerce. The program has been closed and no longer available.

<b>DOC ARPA Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Total Awarded &amp; Obligated</b>	<b>Funding Balance</b>	<b># of Applicants Funded</b>
CAP	2,000,000	1,218,882	-0-	199

The main objective was to support recovery efforts of local businesses that were affected by the COVID shutdown that started February 2022. CAP was specifically for utilities, rents, payroll, and other similar short-term working capital experienced during the lockdown declared by ASG. The limit was \$10,000 for each applicant.

## **Cash Assistance Program (CAP)**

<b>#</b>	<b>Doing Business As</b>	<b>Amount APPROVED</b>
1	Formosa American Samoa Trade, Corporation dba Malaeimi Mart	\$ 10,000.00
2	4 Seasons Corporation dba Asofitu Services	\$ 10,000.00
3	Ever Fortune Enterprises dba Lan Lan	\$ 10,000.00
4	All Stars	\$ 10,000.00
5	Island Flowers by Liana LLC	\$ 10,000.00
6	TMJ, Inc. dba Super Market & Laundromat	\$ 10,000.00
7	Leleagaatutuila Spitzenberg dba Slimmer Stronger You Fitness Center	\$ 10,000.00
8	PFP Rental Rocketeers Motors, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
9	Meridian Aliitaeao Ofisa dba Matasaua Mini Mart	\$ 10,000.00
10	TM, Inc. dba Super M	\$ 10,000.00
11	Pagai Mini Mart	\$ 10,000.00
12	Island Safety & Sanitation	\$ 10,000.00
13	Golden Tree, Inc. dba JDM Consultants	\$ 10,000.00
14	Stevenson Management, Inc. dba Don't Drink The Water Internet Cafe	\$ 10,000.00
15	All Stars Sign & Graphics, Inc. dba All Star Sign	\$ 10,000.00
16	A.S.S Inc dba Faga'alu Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00
17	Pala Lagoon Swimming Center	\$ 10,000.00
18	McCann L. Utu dba Creme De La Creme Child Development	\$ 10,000.00
19	ND Store	\$ 10,000.00
20	Golf Course Center	\$ 10,000.00
21	Mobi City	\$ 10,000.00
22	Sooks Sushi	\$ 10,000.00
23	Famous Seafood Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00
24	AJ's Laundromat	\$ 10,000.00
25	Samoa Sporex	\$ 10,000.00
26	Shoe Tree Inc	\$ 10,000.00
27	KC House of Fashion	\$ 10,000.00
28	CL Auto Part	\$ 10,000.00
29	Steven & Sons	\$ 10,000.00
30	Flame Night Club	\$ 10,000.00

31	AS Automotive Parts Right & Repair	\$ 10,000.00
32	YSJ Limited	\$ 10,000.00
33	Mu, Inc	\$ 10,000.00
34	Lucky 777, Inc	\$ 10,000.00
35	Tipsy Toes Spa	\$ 10,000.00
36	Robert, Inc dba Henry's Diner	\$ 10,000.00
37	L & M, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
38	Samoa Maritime, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
39	Talofa, Inc	\$ 10,000.00
40	Samoa Lelei Retail Store	\$ 10,000.00
41	T.J Mart, Inc	\$ 10,000.00
42	Super Star Inc dba Coco Mart	\$ 10,000.00
43	HQH, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
44	Rencor Mart #1	\$ 10,000.00
45	Nuuuli Mart	\$ 10,000.00
46	Paradise Restaurant & Pizza	\$ 10,000.00
47	P & F Mart	\$ 10,000.00
48	E.M.P. Corporation dba Angels Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00

49	Cecilia's Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00
50	Nina's Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00
51	Ressie Development Services, Inc. dba Stephen Leasiolagi & Teresita Alejo	\$ 10,000.00
52	TND, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
53	Le Max, LLC dba Le Max	\$ 10,000.00
54	Pacific Merchandise, Inc. dba Young Mart	\$ 10,000.00
55	Koko Samoa Bliss	\$ 10,000.00
56	Samatua Farm Distributor	\$ 10,000.00
57	Nunu, Inc. dba Manaia Restaurant	\$ 10,000.00
58	LT Store Corporation	\$ 10,000.00
59	Suamalie 2	\$ 10,000.00
60	Joe Store & Laundromat	\$ 10,000.00
61	Pacific Star, Inc. dba Jade Express	\$ 10,000.00
62	Tutuila Green, Ltd.	\$ 9,931.86
63	Muatofiga N. Lutu	\$ 9,910.40
64	Auvaa, Inc.	\$ 9,800.00
65	Chou Pa	\$ 9,631.95
66	Off Da Rock, Inc dba Exclusive By Off Da Rock	\$ 9,627.64
67	L & L Retail Store	\$ 9,600.00
68	Lucky Star, Inc. dba Canton Mart	\$ 9,559.06
69	SJ Mart	\$ 9,553.30
70	JN Mart	\$ 9,500.00
71	Willis Woo Wang dba Kings Laundromat	\$ 9,375.00
72	Five Star Management, Inc	\$ 9,283.66
73	D & H Inc	\$ 9,224.00
74	Island Peart Commercial Transportation	\$ 9,209.00
75	Asifoa & Sons Inc	\$ 9,027.07
76	Lily's Sewing Shop	\$ 9,000.00
77	Vaasa Floral and Car	\$ 8,709.00
78	Miracle Ventures dba Krispy Krunch Chicken	\$ 8,654.40
79	Klaod Solutions, LLC	\$ 8,640.00
80	SAUIA Bodybuilding, Inc.	\$ 8,436.08

81	Moana O Sina, Inc.	\$ 8,414.19
82	Tanielu Taufetee & Chun Hui Fu	\$ 8,366.97
83	Krizzy House of Beauty Sewing Shop & Retail	\$ 8,000.00
84	Matua o Faiva, Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
85	Moses Mart	\$ 8,000.00
86	Pacific Mini Mart	\$ 7,690.78
87	Maoputasi Enterprises	\$ 7,652.00
88	Wynona Lee dba Theresa's Nutrition Club	\$ 7,500.00
89	Classic Cutz	\$ 7,500.00
90	Goodwill, Inc. dba Happy Mart	\$ 7,361.15
91	Local Delights, Inc. dba Local Delights Eatery	\$ 7,230.92
92	Leta's Fast Food	\$ 7,000.00
93	Law Office Of M. Talaimalo Uiagalelei	\$ 7,000.00
94	Henry B. Auva'a & Halichia T. Auva'a dba Fetau'i Deal	\$ 6,992.18
95	Manuia Restaurant	\$ 6,978.71
96	Sivamaia Sewing Shop	\$ 6,958.00
97	Filisam Development Corporation dba Shan-J	\$ 6,869.32
98	Salon Sophia	\$ 6,480.00
99	Vaitafe Daycare	\$ 6,375.00
100	Cheat Day LLC.	\$ 6,232.42
101	Fagaitua Mini Mart	\$ 6,085.00
102	Victor Peter Chanel II dba Sosene's Barber Shop	\$ 6,031.21
103	Suamalie Inc	\$ 6,000.00
104	Brilliant Star Enterprises	\$ 6,000.00
105	J & B	\$ 5,799.48
106	Anita's Store	\$ 5,626.95
107	Leloalua Mart	\$ 5,625.03
108	Jennifer Grey Fashion	\$ 5,600.00
109	Robert Gebauer dba Uti's Aiga Basket	\$ 5,512.50
110	CNE Grace Corporation dba CNE Grace Sewing Shop	\$ 5,451.80
111	AB Mart	\$ 5,100.00
112	Forest Inc	\$ 5,040.00
113	Priscilla Aokuso dba Motuosalaia Sewing Shop	\$ 5,000.00

114	Heavenly Helping Hands, Inc. dba Tamaiti Manuia Daycare & Rental Units	\$ 5,000.00
115	King Fonz, Inc. dba Sight-N-Sounds	\$ 5,000.00
116	Tauvale L. Saau dba Setailoto Saau Store	\$ 5,000.00
117	Wendy Lotulelei dba Uso Moni Silk Screen Printing	\$ 5,000.00
118	Mao Uele & Andrea Uele dba Mao's Rentals	\$ 5,000.00
119	Fiatunase Asuega dba Tessarea Vaitogi	\$ 5,000.00
120	Annabelle Tuaoi dba JANCKS	\$ 5,000.00
121	Silioleo Seto (General Electronic Repair)	\$ 5,000.00
122	Susitina Laundromat & Retail	\$ 5,000.00
123	Ah Chee Auto Shop	\$ 5,000.00
124	Falenu Mart	\$ 5,000.00
125	ZS Development, Inc	\$ 5,000.00
126	H.T. Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
127	Flying Fox, LLC	\$ 5,000.00
128	3 Bevs Corporation	\$ 5,000.00
129	Salele, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
130	Pago Airport Inn, Ltd.	\$ 4,570.24
131	Christina Lutu Sanchez dba Lalelei	\$ 4,558.88
132	Accords Collision & Towing, Inc.	\$ 4,545.12
133	Zhao, Inc. dba Jin Mart	\$ 4,375.00
134	Ilili Pro Shop	\$ 4,256.00
135	TJ Inc dba Auto Shop	\$ 4,000.00
136	Cattle Ranch/Farm	\$ 3,960.00
137	L & V Retail Store	\$ 3,900.00
138	Photogenix	\$ 3,643.50
139	Maryann L. Schwenke dba Maryann's Auto Shop	\$ 3,411.16
140	Wonder M. Inc dba Myra's Spa	\$ 3,346.77
141	Lupelele Rentals, Inc.	\$ 3,225.00
142	Dunamis Island Services	\$ 3,194.14
143	Tisa's Inc	\$ 3,110.00
144	Tauli Niumata dba Lagituaiva Services	\$ 3,104.00
145	Fauagiga T. Sai	\$ 3,000.00
146	FL Samoa, Inc.	\$ 2,954.06



147	Tevesi Upega (Fishing)	\$ 2,913.47
148	4 Ts Import/Export	\$ 2,800.00
149	Sani A. Faletoi & Sonny Faletoi dba Sonny's Services	\$ 2,800.00
150	Konefesi Petelo dba PK O'O IAI	\$ 2,705.70
151	Mausa S. Malepeai & Dora M. Saifoloi dba Munchkins Daycare	\$ 2,700.00
152	Dorothy Beauty Salon	\$ 2,575.14
153	PT Corporation	\$ 2,431.00
154	Helg Inc. dba Ruby Red	\$ 2,324.48
155	Cellcom Inc	\$ 2,270.00
156	Julias Corporation dba Julia Mart	\$ 2,116.40
157	Carl L. Schuster Jr. dba Triple SSS	\$ 2,075.83
158	Simeamativa Thomas dba Thomas Car Rental	\$ 2,000.00
159	TJD Pho Restaurant	\$ 2,000.00
160	Talofa Tamaiti Daycare	\$ 2,000.00
161	CJ Corporation	\$ 1,738.00
162	Beacon, Inc dba Bookcare	\$ 1,523.87
163	Heavens Touch	\$ 1,500.00
164	Terry's Transport & Car Rental	\$ 1,500.00
165	Emanuelu Asiata Iopu dba Manu's Pizza	\$ 1,420.00
166	Taste of Samoa	\$ 1,410.00
167	FB Sang Mart #2	\$ 1,374.84
168	Miracle Ventures dba Krispy Krunch Chicken	\$ 1,345.60
169	Lafaele Ioka (Commercial Fishing)	\$ 1,244.00
170	Eteline Levaoalii dba Edel Sewing Shop	\$ 1,240.00
171	Esther Posala dba Jin Printing	\$ 1,205.00
172	Bruce B. Sagapolutele & Dai Faxiang Farming	\$ 1,187.42
173	Sela Satini dba Lilevai Style	\$ 1,040.00
174	R & J	\$ 1,000.00
175	J & P, Inc. dba Family Mart	\$ 1,000.00
176	Finau Nevile dba Kathyipo Transport	\$ 1,000.00
177	Monica & Sons	\$ 1,000.00
178	Samantha Solaita dba Sam Solaita Photography	\$ 1,000.00
179	3J Sammy's Creation	\$ 1,000.00

180	MNR Transportation	\$ 1,000.00
181	Nick Bohanak	\$ 1,000.00
182	F & L Samoa Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
183	Whitcomb Media	\$ 1,000.00
184	LD Construction, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
185	Ausage & Associates, Inc.	\$ 835.00
186	G & G Lowns	\$ 740.00
187	Tresmal Incorporated	\$ 700.00
188	Moon Divers, Inc.	\$ 567.00
189	Taiulagi Asuega dba TJ's Gym	\$ 561.60
190	Vineta Retail Store	\$ 537.00
191	Island Pride, Inc dba Iseula Mart	\$ 490.00
192	Puna Kofe	\$ 411.38
193	Siniva Fasi Taxi	\$ 397.75
194	Erasu Valuaga	\$ 396.00
195	H & L Mart	\$ 395.00
196	SouthWind	\$ 393.33
197	Agalelei Togafau dba Xavier	\$ 349.66
198	Lotu's Farm	\$ 256.00
199	Kolopa Farm	\$ 112.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,218,882.37</b>

### **ARPA CAP GRANTS**

To date, we issued \$1,218,882 to 199 eligible CAP awardees. The total allocated to this program was \$2 million. The program is closed and we are working on final closing procedures and will report on the next quarter 2023.

### **Project Demographic Distribution**

The Territory is considered a economically disadvantaged community as majority of the residents are low income and in need of financial assistance particularly its business.

### **Civil Rights Compliance**

DOC complies with all civil rights requirements. It does not discriminate or withhold any services under a prohibitive basis.

**Subawards, Contracts, Grants, Loans, Transfers, and Direct Payments:**

All CAP recipients are each allotted up to \$10,000. Each is depended on the invoices presented that confirms eligible needs.

As for grants, approved applicants can be up to \$25,000 and the award is based on the stated need and a budget to support it. Each awardee has a budget to draw funds from. If it is not used within the allotted anniversary of one year, DOC reserves the right to cancel the remaining and used balance.

**Other Programmatic Data including challenges:**

The DOC ARPA RLOC, Grants, and CAP have been fully utilized. However, the RLOC and grants depending on the paybacks, cancellations, and terms may provide funding for more approvals. Monitoring and servicing of RLOC and grants is on a continuing basis until the end of the ARPA expenditure period.

**ARPA Project Name: New Seaport Facilities, Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building Reconstruction, New Inter-Island Transportation**

**ARPA Funds: Combined \$40,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A21001-2022; SLFRF-T-A21002-2022; SLFRF-T-A21003-2022**

<b>1.7</b>	<b>Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine</b>	<b>\$40,000,000.00</b>
------------	---	------------------------

**AS Department of Port Authority**

**Timeline to implementation: 6 months to 18 months**

**Seaport:**

The public health emergency declaration has highlighted the dire need to improve our lone seaport facility to ensure the reliable flow of critical goods including medicines, medical supplies, grocery goods, building materials, equipment, vehicles and all manner of basic necessities are able to be imported with minimal interruption.

It is estimated that 90% of all goods used or sold in American Samoa enter through the seaport. The vast majority of medicine, medical supplies, general merchandise, building materials, grocery goods, equipment, vehicles, fuel and raw materials used by the fishing production canneries enters through the single wharf serving all of American Samoa. Handling global supply chain issues and the increased transportation costs are further exacerbated with interruptions at our lone seaport as it is currently inadequate to allow for safe inspection and clearance of vessels and commercial goods.

The seaport facility may be the single most important facility to keep protect our economy and welfare of our people. Ordering delays and global supply chain disruptions are only worsened by additional delays as a result of the safety protocols to keep the COVID-19 virus out of American Samoa. The island does not have other options as keeping import and export operations at the seaport is critically important for the very survival of the territory.

The current Department of Port Administration (DPA) building was built in the early 1950s. The building, which is nearly 40,000 square feet and occupies about one-third of the entire Port area, was initially designed to process break bulk cargo, however, today, the main type of cargo are containers. The switch from break-bulk cargo to containers has made the facility inadequate for modern-day operations and made especially worse with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since the beginning of the Pandemic, American Samoa saw an almost 30,000-ton increase of total containerized tonnage from 2019 to 2020. This created struggles for DPA and the stevedoring companies to process and find storage for the containers. Most importantly, the COVID-19 Pandemic brought on major changes in consumption and shopping patterns which led to increased import demand for manufactured consumer goods. Highlighting why there was an increase of imports and exports. The table below shows the total containerized tonnage from 2017 to 2020. This data shows that there is a need to improve the infrastructure of the container yard and wharf to accommodate the increase traffic brought on by the Pandemic. At present, the container yard is overcrowded. The current facility is not equipped to handle the number of containers that pass through the Port. DPA has resorted to storing containers on the Service Wharf, which was meant to service DPA vessels. The American Samoa Government (ASG) has attempted to find more places for storage but has been unsuccessful. Containers are seen scattered throughout the island, in front of private businesses and along the road due to

lack of space. By demolishing the existing building, it will open almost 40,000 square feet of area for more storage.

Furthermore, the container yard requires major reconstruction and repairs that will better accommodate the current operations. A study conducted by Lyons Associates in 2001 for the DPA Port Master Plan stated that work needed to be conducted to improve the infrastructure of the container yard and wharf. Twenty years since, no improvements have been made and conditions have worsened. This problem was made worse with the increase of container movements during the Pandemic. The proposed project will improve the infrastructure of the container yard and wharf.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the shortcomings in the Port facilities. While upgrading the Pago Pago Port has been a long-standing issue, the proposed renovations and improvements are a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will ultimately make necessary infrastructure improvements to aid all industries and agencies affected by the public health emergency.

The proposed renovations and improvements will allow the Airport to more safely operate under pandemic conditions and allow for the reopening of our borders sooner. This would allow our residents to seek much needed and much delayed healthcare services and treatment unavailable on island presently.

Opening our airport to regular passenger travel carried with it the increased risk of spreading COVID-19 along with risking the health and wellbeing of every resident of the territory.

The Terminal Building at Pago Pago International Airport is over 30 years old. It has significantly deteriorated over the years due to aging, various natural disasters (earthquakes, cyclones, etc.), and exposure to the environment (climate and proximity to the ocean). The airport is currently spending a significant amount of money to maintain the current buildings; however, the optimal and cost-effective solution would be a reconstruction and upgrade of the facilities.

The existing airport layout does not allow for efficient and effective passenger/public/traffic or baggage flow and does not provide sufficient space for all the required airport operations. The current airport layout is outdated and does not support the airport security, immigration, customs, quarantine, health screening and safety requirements that have been implemented since the COVID-19 Pandemic. This causes significant congestion during flight operations, resulting in delays from immigration, quarantine, customs and security. The congestion is also a safety concern as passengers can stand for long periods of time in a crowded area, waiting to be processed.

#### **New Inter-Island Transportation Economic Program:**

The project is for the acquisition of one Landing Craft Units (LCU)s and two Tug Boats. The LCUs will be used for cargo and passenger transport between Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands. The tug boats will be used for operations within the Port of Pago Pago.

The islands of Manu'a are roughly 70 miles away from American Samoa's main island of Tutuila and, most importantly, the only hospital in the Territory. These islands are also home to about

1,400 people. There is a significant lack of healthcare infrastructure in Manu'a, which requires the residents to make the trip to Tutuila for much of their healthcare needs.

Reliable transportation is, thereby, an essential aspect of access to healthcare for the residents of Manu'a. Many of these residents suffer from the same non-communicable diseases present in the rest of the Territory, making them particularly vulnerable. COVID-19 highlighted the need for more reliable and regular transportation to ensure that the residents in Manu'a have access to healthcare. Travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19 also affected service to the Manu'a islands.

American Samoa Government currently only owns one vessel, the MV Manuatele to operate between the islands. With only one vessel in operation, this makes the transportation of people and cargo to the islands unreliable, as there is no alternative when the MV Manuatele is due for maintenance or repairs. The acquisition of a Landing Craft Unit would allow reliable and regular transportation between the islands.

The Tug Boats are crucial for operations in the Port of Pago Pago. Presently, there is only one Tug Boat that is used to bring in vessels and for Pilots to Board ships. The Coast Guard regulates that a Port must have at least two. Since DPA only had one, a waiver was requested and approved. Therefore, the tug boats are crucial for operations and to meet the Coast Guard standards.

## **Uses of Funds**

### **New Seaport Facilities:**

#### **a. *Public Health (EC 1)***

The Seaport plays an essential role in everyday life in American Samoa, including in healthcare delivery. As a remote Territory located roughly 5,000 miles from the US mainland, American Samoa is dependent on the steady stream of imported food, medical supplies, and equipment. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the depth of this dependence when it caused commercial flights to be suspended and saw major disruptions to supply chains and shipments. The Department of Port Authority was forced to quickly adapt to these changing conditions while making use of facilities that were in desperate need of upgrades. Operating under current conditions indefinitely would put at risk the ability to bring in a steady supply of medical supplies and adequately address prevention and mitigation strategies for COVID-19.

Age and environmental factors have taken their toll on the seaport facilities. The degradation has inhibited the ability to not only properly receive shipments, but to ensure that there is sufficient facilities to evaluate and quarantine those bringing essential supplies into American Samoa.

Upgrading the seaport facilities will directly ensure that pandemic operational needs are met. The new facilities will account for the realities brought to the fore by the pandemic, including accounting for social distancing and necessary quarantine space. The seaport will also better house supplies essential to the delivery of healthcare to the people of the Territory.

Since it is vital to healthcare delivery it will also ensure better access to healthcare for vulnerable populations including as an improved area to welcome those residents of Manu'a in



need of medical care. Addressing the storage space issues will not only improve commerce by decreasing potential delays, but will also ensure the timely delivery of critical medical supplies. In addition, a significant part of the upgrades will be a COVID-19 quarantine facility to ensure that incoming crew members that are being tested for infection are safely quarantined. No such facilities exist and the potential for close contact with quarantined individuals is high. Upgrading the port facilities and container storage areas will directly address public health safety issues by allowing for safer and cleaner facilities.

*b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

The Federal Government has given American Samoa control over its own borders. As a part of that, the Department of Port Administration (DPA) controls ingress and egress out of the seaport. This duty was heightened since the beginning of the pandemic. Increased security measures intended to prevent COVID-19 from entering American Samoa were put into place. In addition to the globally disrupted supply lines, there were many instances of ships that were denied entry and remained just outside of the Port waiting for entry as necessary quarantine procedures were followed.

The dependence on imports is extreme compared to other US jurisdictions. In 2020, American Samoa saw a 30,000 tonnage increase in imports from the prior year. This has overwhelmed capacity at the port, reducing the ability to adequately support local businesses. Essentially, the pandemic related increase in imports exacerbated the existing storage shortage and has highlighted the need to maximize space.

The increase in tonnage for imports has stretched the capabilities of the port facilities beyond its capacity. The lack of remaining storage space has put pressure on the local businesses to store containers on their premises. It also will potentially cause delays and unsafe conditions that will disrupt the flow of commerce.

An upgraded seaport facility will not only address the public health impacts of the pandemic but ensure the ability to maintain operations that are essential to all commercial activity on island. Facilities that can accommodate social distancing and quarantine measures will be able to better receive ships and crews thereby reducing delays and disruptions. The increased storage capacity and other measures that will address the drainage issues causing increased health risks will also improve traffic through American Samoa's most important economic facility.

**Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building Reconstruction:**

*c. Public Health (EC 1)*

With travelers playing a primary role in the early (and continued) spread of COVID-19, the need for airport facilities that are built to respond to outbreaks effectively is critical.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted shortcomings in the airport facilities. Most significantly for public health purposes, increased health checks, quarantine measures, and social distancing in the airport are now a necessity.

The current structures have deteriorated due to a number of environmental conditions and the layout does not allow for sufficient space for passengers and workers. This situation has caused an increased risk to health for travelers and is a contributing factor in the continued suspension of commercial flights.

With travelers playing a primary role in the early (and continued) spread of COVID-19, the need for airport facilities that are built to respond to outbreaks effectively is critical.

In addition to the direct public health issues identified above, the airport plays an important role in healthcare for the Territory. The Off-Island Referral Program assists those that cannot receive certain treatments or surgeries on island and requires air travel. The same situation applies to veterans that receive treatment elsewhere as directed by the VA Office. For the continued treatment of residents of American Samoa, the facilities need to function safely and adequately.

The Airport Upgrade Project will make necessary adjustments to the facilities that will allow for the better flow of travelers and public health related safety measures. Each part of the project is designed to specifically address the spatial requirements for social distancing. The Vehicle Canopies also address public health issues by allowing access to emergency vehicles at the airport. This is an important part of the public health response.

#### *d. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

In response to the pandemic, American Samoa suspended commercial flights in and out of the Territory. The last commercial flight to the US was on March 26, 2020. Since that time, the airport has only been used for cargo, Medicaid charter, and repatriation flights. The modest tourism industry has been hard hit by these restrictions since no travelers have been allowed except for repatriation.

In addition to the above, the airport serves as a vital lifeline for American Samoa. The airport is key in receiving supplies (medical and otherwise) essential to life and commerce in the islands. In its current state, it cannot continue to operate and meet both the public health needs and the commercial needs of the Territory. There are significant hurdles in receiving passengers and shipments without this upgrade, which could require another suspension of flights if left unaddressed.

With no non-resident travelers entering the Territory for the last 16 months, tourism has been severely impacted. The lack of travelers has had a ripple effect on the economy as it has stunted growth of local small businesses. For a remote island location like American Samoa, travelers' equal potential customers for a variety of businesses. The suspension of flights was detrimental to the economy in this respect, but essential for keeping the people COVID- free. In addition to the above, the airport serves as a vital lifeline for American Samoa. The airport is key in receiving supplies (medical and otherwise) essential to life and commerce in the islands. In its current state, it cannot continue to operate and meet both the public health needs and the commercial needs of the Territory. There are significant hurdles in receiving passengers and shipments without this upgrade, which could require another suspension of flights if left unaddressed.

An airport that is designed to accommodate passengers and the public with more open spaces and better equipment will effectively prevent this harm from reoccurring while uplifting those businesses by bringing in tourists.

The Airport Upgrade Project would address the negative economic harm by making the facilities suitable for travel and reduce the previous concerns with re-opening flights. Upgrading the equipment and structures would allow for the more efficient flow of people through check-in, security checkpoints, and waiting areas.

It would also provide further economic opportunities by creating a space for restaurants. The current restaurant will need to be moved from its location to accommodate the expanded areas that allow for social distancing.

These upgrades will ensure that the airport is up to date with all FAA requirements and is able to receive travelers and cargo. Both of which are essential to the economy of American Samoa. By allowing for the safe entry of passengers, it will also support existing business districts by bringing in more customers.

### **New Inter-Island Transportation Economic Program:**

#### *a. Public Health (EC 1)*

The islands of Manu'a are roughly 70 miles away from American Samoa's main island of Tutuila and, most importantly, the only hospital in the Territory. These islands are also home to about 1,400 people. There is a significant lack of healthcare infrastructure in Manu'a, which requires the residents to make the trip to Tutuila for much of their healthcare needs.

Reliable transportation is, thereby, an essential aspect of access to healthcare for the residents of Manu'a. Many of these residents suffer from the same non-communicable diseases present in the rest of the Territory, making them particularly vulnerable. COVID-19 highlighted the need for more reliable and regular transportation to ensure that the residents in Manu'a have access to healthcare. Travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19 also affected service to the Manu'a islands.

One of the key points in the IFR, is the need to address disparities in public health outcomes. Providing access to healthcare resources, "including services that connect residents with health care resources and public assistance programs and build healthier environments" are what the ARPA funds are intended to address. While the non-exhaustive list in the IFR refers mostly to community health workers to facilitate those connections between the community and health care, American Samoa faces a unique challenge with Manu'a, where the literal connection to services (i.e., transportation) is of critical importance. Ensuring that there is regular and consistent transportation will ensure that this vulnerable population gets the medical care it needs. This is also in keeping with the explicit purposes listed in the IFR that references "support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services."

#### *b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

In assessing whether a use of funds is eligible to address negative economic impacts, the recipient must "consider whether an economic harm exists and whether this harm was caused or made worse by the COVID-19 public health emergency." IFR p.30. The use must also "respond to" the identified negative impact and be related and reasonably proportional to the type of harm caused.

For the proposed use, transportation is an essential aspect of business operations in Manu'a and overall economic development. American Samoa has a limited number of vessels that can

adequately navigate the wharfs in these islands. The islands are remote and difficult to access, an issue that was exacerbated by the pandemic and highlighted the need for adequate transportation for goods and services to a population dependent on imports.

The Territory's main vessel for inter-island transportation, the Manu'atele, has experienced many periods of non-use due to necessary repairs. This occurred during the declared public health emergency, as well.

The lack of reliable transportation negatively impacted businesses in Manu'a by making it more difficult to serve these islands with supplies, personnel, and tourists. Purchasing an LCU vessel would directly respond to the negative impact by ensuring reliable service that meets the needs of travelers and businesses.

Threats to transportation exacerbate existing disparities in economic outcomes for Manu'a residents. In the most recent Statistical Yearbook published by the ASG Department of Commerce, there were several key indicators of disparities identified. Manu'a workers had a median income of \$6,000 less than the territorial average at \$17,614 compared to \$23,892. This is also reflected in the per capita income, where Manu'a is at \$5,441 while the territorial average is \$6,311. This disparity has also increased over time. For example, the territorial per capita income increased by 44% from 1999 to 2009, yet it only increased by 20% in Manu'a. In 1999, Manu'a also had a per capita income over \$100 more than the territorial average, further showing how it is struggling to keep pace with economic development in the rest of the Territory. Finally, Manu'a has a poverty rate 7% higher than the territorial rate coming in at 64.8%.

In addition to the need for goods and services to flow into Manu'a, it is just as important to connect local Manu'a produce with the rest of the population. Many residents in Manu'a are farmers and sell their produce locally in markets. The main market is located in Tutuila and represents a significant opportunity to make sales of their produce. Consistent access via water transport is essential to ensuring that local farmers are able to earn a return on their crops. Reliable marine transportation is crucial to the economic health of Manu'a. There were significant disruptions to inter-island transport to Manu'a during the pandemic as repairs and maintenance were difficult to obtain locally. An LCU would provide the proper type of vessel that can enter each wharf safely and bring people and goods to the islands as well as offer opportunities for residents to participate in the greater territorial economy.

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

American Samoa is classified as an historically disadvantaged and underserved community. For this reason, the projects to improve transportation for the island by upgrade the Seaport, Airport, and Sea Travel will provide numerous benefits. Aside from addressing the COVID-19 Public Health emergency, the projects will also provide economic benefits to the island. All three projects are focused towards public facilities and transportation; therefore, these services can be accessed by the general public and awareness is public.

#### **New Seaport Facilities:**

The dependence on imports is extreme compared to other US jurisdictions. In 2020, American Samoa saw a 30,000 tonnage increase in imports from the prior year. This has overwhelmed

capacity at the port, reducing the ability to adequately support local businesses. Essentially, the pandemic related increase in imports exacerbated the existing storage shortage and has highlighted the need to maximize space.

The increase in tonnage for imports has stretched the capabilities of the port facilities beyond its capacity. The lack of remaining storage space has put pressure on the local businesses to store containers on their premises. It also will potentially cause delays and unsafe conditions that will disrupt the flow of commerce.

An upgraded seaport facility will not only address the public health impacts of the pandemic but ensure the ability to maintain operations that are essential to all commercial activity on island. Facilities that can accommodate social distancing and quarantine measures will be able to better receive ships and crews thereby reducing delays and disruptions. The increased storage capacity and other measures that will address the drainage issues causing increased health risks will also improve traffic through American Samoa's most important economic facility.  
Pago Pago International Airport:

The airport serves as a vital lifeline for American Samoa. The airport is key in receiving supplies (medical and otherwise) essential to life and commerce in the islands. In its current state, it cannot continue to operate and meet both the public health needs and the commercial needs of the Territory. There are significant hurdles in receiving passengers and shipments without this upgrade, which could require another suspension of flights if left unaddressed.

An airport that is designed to accommodate passengers and the public with more open space and better equipment will effectively prevent this harm from reoccurring while uplifting those businesses by bringing in tourists.

The Airport Upgrade Project would address the negative economic harm by making the facilities suitable for travel and reduce the previous concerns with re-opening flights.

Upgrading the equipment and structures would allow for the more efficient flow of people through check-in, security checkpoints, and waiting areas.

It would also provide further economic opportunities by creating a space for restaurants. The current restaurant will need to be moved from its location to accommodate the expanded areas that allow for social distancing.

These upgrades will ensure that the airport is up to date with all FAA requirements and is able to receive travelers and cargo. Both of which are essential to the economy of American Samoa. By allowing for the safe entry of passengers, it will also support existing business districts by bringing in more customers.

Inter-Island Transportation:

The lack of reliable transportation negatively impacted businesses in Manu'a by making it more difficult to serve these islands with supplies, personnel, and tourists. Purchasing an LCU vessel would directly respond to the negative impact by ensuring reliable service that meets the needs of travelers and businesses.

Threats to transportation exacerbate existing disparities in economic outcomes for Manu'a residents. In the most recent Statistical Yearbook published by the ASG Department of Commerce, there were several key indicators of disparities identified. Manu'a workers had a

median income of \$6,000 less than the territorial average at \$17,614 compared to \$23,892. This is also reflected in the per capita income, where Manu'a is at \$5,441 while the territorial average is \$6,311. This disparity has also increased over time. For example, the territorial per capita income increased by 44% from 1999 to 2009, yet it only increased by 20% in Manu'a. In 1999, Manu'a also had a per capita income over \$100 more than the territorial average, further showing how it is struggling to keep pace with economic development in the rest of the Territory. Finally, Manu'a has a poverty rate 7% higher than the territorial rate coming in at 64.8%.

In addition to the need for goods and services to flow into Manu'a, it is just as important to connect local Manu'a produce with the rest of the population. Many residents in Manu'a are farmers and sell their produce locally in markets. The main market is located in Tutuila and represents a significant opportunity to make sales of their produce. Consistent access via water transport is essential to ensuring that local farmers are able to earn a return on their crops. Reliable marine transportation is crucial to the economic health of Manu'a. There were significant disruptions to inter-island transport to Manu'a during the pandemic as repairs and maintenance were difficult to obtain locally. An LCU would provide the proper type of vessel that can enter each wharf safely and bring people and goods to the islands as well as offer opportunities for residents to participate in the greater territorial economy.

### **Community Engagement**

DPA conducted Stakeholder Meetings in 2021 to spread awareness of the general project details, project goals, and project objectives. DPA hosted a total of 4 public meetings inviting the general public and stakeholders of the Airport and Seaport. DPA held two meetings on East Side and two meetings on the West Side. During the meetings, DPA presented all the components of the projects and gave details on the ARPA funding. DPA allowed for a month-long comment period to receive comments and feedback from public regarding the project. All comments were included into the proposal package.

In addition, DPA prepared a proposal detailing all the projects for public viewing. DPA posted the proposal on the website and had a hard-copy available for people to come and read. Additionally, copies were given to the House and Senate as well as the Governor's Office. When the projects were awarded, DPA hosted stakeholder meetings with the stakeholders affected by the projects. DPA along with the contractors met with all businesses and government offices to gain feedback on how to best approach and build the projects.

### **Labor Practices**

DPA follows all labor laws regulated by the US Department of Labor as well as the local Human Resources agency. DPA ensures that the contracts include provisions requiring for all work to be within standards of both the federal and local laws. DPA also has a project manager that ensures all practices detailed in contracts are being followed.

### **Use of Evidence**

*N/A*

### **Performance Report**

DPA requires regular reporting and meetings by the contractors/consultants performing the work. For construction projects, DPA holds weekly site meetings to discuss any project



constraints and objectives for the week. Contractors also required to submit weekly reports detailing work completed that week. DPA also checks the project outcomes through the pay applications submitted by the contractors. The pay applications show the percentage completed and DPA is able to check progress through this.

## **PROJECT INVENTORY**

### **1. New Seaport Facilities - SLFRF-T-A21001-2022**

**Funding Amount: \$20 million**

**Expenditure Category: 2.13 Other Economic Support**

#### **Project Overview:**

Project 1 – New Seaport Facilities

The Department of Port Administration (DPA) will be constructing new American Samoa Government (ASG) facilities on the Pago Pago Port. DPA will also be making upgrades to the container yard and wharf. This project will be divided under three major components:

#### **Use of Evidence:**

##### **1. Demolition:**

To demolish the existing Port Administration building on the Pago Pago Port and prepare the area for container storage. The overall objectives of the project include:

- Perform formal assessment of building.
- Demolish existing building.
- Properly dispose of demolished material in accordance with federal and local regulations.

- Repair any concrete slabs or surrounding area that was damaged during demolition.

##### **2. New American Samoa Government Facilities:**

To design and construct new facilities for American Samoa Government operations on the Port. New facilities include:

- Department of Port Administration Building.
- Loose Cargo Processing Warehouse (houses Customs, Department of Health, and Department of Agriculture).
- COVID 19 Processing Facility.
- New Security Entrance and Exits.

##### **3. Container Yard and Wharf Upgrade for Increased Economic Activity from COVID-19 Pandemic:**

To design and perform container yard and wharf upgrades. This phase includes:

- Reconstruction of all concrete slabs.
- Installation of new drainage system.
- Installation of new Oil Separator.
- Install of new high-mast light poles.
- New Markings for container placement.
- Repair to concrete pilings and the under deck.
- Rebuild wharf full rails and utility pits.
- Replace all cleats and bollards.
- Reset and anchor mooring fittings.

The goal of the project is to upgrade the facilities of the Port of Pago Pago. The project entails major reconstruction of the government facilities on the Port as well as the Container Yard area. The goal is to improve the efficiency of the Port operations by upgrading its infrastructure and re-designing the Port to incorporate new technology that will improve operations. The project is not being used for evidence-based interventions.

### **Performance Report:**

At the moment, project performance is measured based on weekly meetings, weekly progress reports, and monthly pay applications. DPA also performs site visits daily to ensure project is progressing according to workplan and schedule.

## **2. Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building Reconstruction - SLFRF-T-A21002- 2022**

**Funding Amount: \$15 million**

**Expenditure Category: 2.13 Other Economic Support**

### **Project Overview:**

Project 2 – Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building Reconstruction

DPA will be reconstructing the Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building. DPA will be building the airport's first jet bridge that will be centerpiece of the construction. All the surrounding facilities will be re-designed and re-positioned to flow to and from the jet bridge.

The major components of the project include:

- Reconstruction of the Arrivals and Departures areas and their required operations, facilities and offices, to ensure adequate space for operations and social distancing
- Construction of a Jet Bridge to Stand B.
- Reconstruction of the Baggage Handling Areas to tie into the Arrivals and Departures Areas.
- Reconstruction of the Check-In Areas including TSA Screening and Baggage flow, to allow for social distancing practices.
- Reconstruction of the Passenger Waiting Fale to allow for changes in the flow of passengers.
- Fale Samoa, to be relocated to allow better access and use for cultural purposes, away from regular airport operations (such as receiving of the remains of loved ones from off island).
- Reconstruction of Public and Restaurant Areas.
- Reconstruction of the Executive Transit Lounge.
- Reconstruction of the Vehicle Canopy (including pick up and drop off locations), etc.

The project will include implementing sustainable design strategies and energy- efficient equipment to make the airport as green as operations allow. The reconstruction will look at possibility of maintaining the existing airport structural footprint, and investigate if existing foundations can be reused. It will incorporate 'future proofing concepts' to the structure, to allow for easy expansion in the future if needed.

### **Use of Evidence:**

The goal of the project is to reconstruct the Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building. The project entails major reconstruction of the airport in order to improve the passenger and air

travel experience on the airport. The project aims towards providing a new facility to increase travel to the island and to help stimulate the economy. The project is not being used for evidence-based interventions.

**Performance Report:**

At the moment, project performance is measured based on weekly meetings, weekly progress reports, and monthly pay applications. DPA also performs site visits daily to ensure project is progressing according to workplan and schedule.

**3.New Inter-Island Transportation Economic Program - SLFRF-T-A21003-2022**

**Funding Amount: \$6.5 million**

**Expenditure Category: 2.13 Other Economic Support**

**Project Overview:**

Project 3 – New Inter-Island Transportation Economic Program

DPA will be purchasing 1 Landing Craft Units (LCUs) and two Tug Boats that will be used for Port operations. The major objectives of the project are as follows:

- Procurement process for vessel purchase.
- Selection of Vessel.
- Purchasing, permitting, and documentation process.
- Preparation of vessel for Sailing.
- Delivery of Vessel.

**Use of Evidence:**

The goal of the project is to improve and increase travel to the Manu’a Islands. The purchase of an LCU will allow for increased transportation of both passengers and cargo to and from the islands. Moreover, the project also aims towards improving Port Operations by purchasing two tug boats. This will also bring DPA back into standards with the US Coast Guard.

The project is not being used for evidence-based interventions.

**Performance Report:**

At the moment, project performance is measured based on weekly meetings, weekly progress reports, and monthly pay applications. DPA also performs site visits daily to ensure project is progressing according to workplan and schedule.

**ARPA Project Name: DBAS MAOTA Affordable Loan Project (DBAS MALP)**  
**ID No: SLFRF-T-A00120-2022**

<b>2.15</b>	<b>Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing</b>	<b>\$8,000,000.00</b>
-------------	---	-----------------------

**AS Development Bank of American Samoa**  
**Timeline to implementation: 3 months to 1 year**

On February 18, 2022, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Oversight Office of American Samoa Government (ASG) announced its release of the Affordable Home Loan Program (AHLP) and that the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) has been designated as the lead Authority to manage and administer the implementation of the program. As the designated lead, DBAS has been awarded a grant funding of \$8,000,000.00 under the ARPA AHLP on May 24, 2022, to address the need of low-income and moderate-income households and families for accessibility to affordable, safe and stable housing. Implementing the AHLP will provide high-quality primary residence living units in a safe and healthy environment in Manu'a, Eastern Tutuila, and Western Tutuila Districts in three years collaborating with various government and private agencies stakeholders. Further, the AHLP will be a timely and proportional response to the COVID-19 health emergency and its negative impact. Hence, DBAS developed the *DBAS MAOTA Affordable Loan Project* (DBAS MALP) to build new single-family housing units and renovate existing home structures. MAOTA stands for "Malū Apitaga O Tagata Amerika Samoa", which translates into secure and safe homes for the people of American Samoa. The DBAS MALP will achieve the following goals and objectives as listed in the American Rescue Plan Act.

- To develop viable communities by providing decent and affordable homes for low-income families or households.
- To create and increase a suitable living environment within the community.
- To expand economic development opportunities primarily for persons of low and moderate-income.
- To increase the number of quality affordable homes across the Territory.

Further, DBAS MALP is an initiative and effort for impoverished families to afford a safe and stable dwelling structure and a home where family members feel assured of care and love in their primary residence, especially when families are facing the negative impact of a life-threatening pandemic. The Governor of American Samoa declared on February 21, 2022, that the territory was under "Code Red" threat level as COVID-19 community transmission was evident. Since the declaration, families have faced the threatening impact of COVID-19, as the positive cases have continued to rise. Government and private business employees must work from home, and students must engage themselves in learning from home. Those who tested positive were to self-isolate themselves in quarantine in their homes to mitigate the community spread of the virus. In addition, travelers must spend days in quarantine in their homes. According to the medical professionals in the U.S, in-home quarantine is deemed as "the best and only option available to prevent and limit the further spread of the virus." Implementing the DBAS MALP will not only help families alleviate their anxiety by living in a safe and healthy living environment that is compliant with public health guidelines but also provide them with an investment in improved public health and economic outcomes in communities. With the AHLP funding, DBAS MALP will assist families or households in making improvements in their primary residence or building new houses as their primary residence to ensure safe and healthy living and participate in the government's efforts to live with the coronavirus responsibly and cooperatively for the common good of the larger community of American Samoa. DBAS MALP

serves as a conduit of the ASG’s response to address economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency using the ARPA AHLP funding for safe and stable housing.

**Uses of Funds**

The following is the funding breakdown of the DBAS MALP: ninety percent of the funds to perform new construction and renovation throughout the territory, while ten percent is set aside for administrative costs. For continuation of the DBAS MALP Project, DBAS will continue to charge 10% of program income annually after three years to ensure sustainability of this revolving home loan fund.

10% DBAS Administrative Cost	\$800,000.00
The breakdown of the 90% (\$7,200,000.00) is as follows:	
25% Manu’a District (New Home & Renovations)	\$1,800,000.00
75% Tutuila (Renovations)	\$1,620,000.00
Tutuila Western District (New Home Construction)	\$1,890,000.00
Tutuila Eastern District (New Home Construction)	\$1,890,000.00
Total	\$7,200,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,000,000.00</b>

DBAS uses the 2020 Census data for American Samoa to allocate the funds for Manu’a and Tutuila districts. According to the 2020 Census data, Manu’a District has 356 housing units, which comprise 3% of the total 11,807 housing units in American Samoa. In contrast, Tutuila has 11,451 housing units, including 97% of the total housing units in American Samoa. Therefore, allocating most of the funds for Tutuila is equitable considering its dense population and high household units. Further, Tutuila has been strongly hit with the COVID-19 community transmission that prompted the public declaration for immediate home quarantine and home isolations for those who tested positive or thought to have been exposed to or have contracted the COVID-19 virus. The DBAS MALP will greatly assist families and households in building new dwellings or making necessary changes, repairs, and renovations to meet CDC standards for more room space and configurations to accommodate social distancing and isolation. According to the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) [31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC771], “Recipients may use SLFRF funds to fund the principal of the loan and in that case must track the repayment of the principal and interest . . . When the loan is made, recipients must report the loan’s principal as an expense” (p. 366). Further, SLFRF states, “Interest payments received prior to the end of the period of performance will be considered an addition to the total award and may be used for any purpose that is an eligible use of funds under the statute and final rule” (p.367). Thus, DBAS will consider funds generated by the DBAS MALP as revolving loans to enable DBAS to sustain lending more affordable housing loans to the community even beyond the pandemic times. In addition, DBAS will monitor the loan process and report to the ARPA Oversight Office of ASG regarding the use of funds, i.e., the principal and interest of the loan. DBAS proposes the following estimated payment schedules for home loans and home repair loans:

**Table 1***Estimated Payment Schedule: Home Loan (2-bedroom 2 bath)*

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Payment</b>	<b>Monthly Interest</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Low-Income</b>	\$50,000	30 yrs.	1.0%	\$160.82	\$21.93	\$7,895.11	\$57,895.11
<b>Moderate-Income</b>	\$50,000	30 yrs.	2.0%	\$184.81	\$45.92	\$16,531.51	\$66,531.51

**Table 2***Estimated Payment Schedule: Home Loan (3-bedroom 2 bath)*

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Payment</b>	<b>Monthly Interest</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Low-Income</b>	\$60,000	30 yrs.	1.0%	\$192.98	\$26.32	\$9,474.14	\$69,474.14
<b>Moderate-Income</b>	\$60,000	30 yrs.	2.0%	\$221.77	\$55.11	\$19,837.81	\$79,837.81

**Table 3***Estimated Payment Schedule: Home Repair Loan*

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Payment</b>	<b>Monthly Interest</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Low-Income</b>	\$20,000	30 yrs.	1.0%	\$64.33	\$8.77	\$3,158.05	\$23,158.05
<b>Moderate-Income</b>	\$20,000	30 yrs.	2.0%	\$73.92	\$18.37	\$6,612.60	\$26,612.60

ARPA AHLP funds are allocated to develop DBAS MALP in the form of an affordable interest-bearing loan to construct new single-family-owner occupied units and renovate existing structures. An affordable equitable interest rate will be charged as follows:

Low-income 1.0%  
Moderate-income 2.0%

DBAS Administrator for DBAS MALP will monitor funding allocations by respective Districts to ensure a fair lending practice of funds. A separate account will receive funding draws from

ARPA for construction projects. Another account will receive loan repayments to generate DBAS MALP project income to fund future projects and cover administrative costs.

**Promoting equitable outcomes**

DBAS MALP represents two floor plans for new home construction:

2 bedroom/2bath (1064Sqft) \$50,000.00

3 bedroom/2bath (1300Sqft) \$60,000.00

The 2- bedroom/2-bath and 3-bedroom/2bath house plans are both sufficient to meet the home quarantine and home isolation model. Both house plans include a master bedroom with a master bath. As noted, and referenced on the CDC website, people with Covid-19 must stay in home quarantine and isolation for at least 5 days.

To determine a potential DBAS MALP loan borrower’s income eligibility, DBAS will use the income limits as provided by the U.S. Treasury based on the definitions of low-income and moderate-income households. Upon the recommendation from the ARPA Oversight Office, DBAS adopts the following calculations as exemplified by Buffalo County, South Dakota, using the Tool for Determining Low- and Moderate-Income thresholds to determine income eligibility (U.S. Treasury, n.d.) of families and households in American Samoa:

**Table 4**

*Low Income: 185% FPG by Household Size*

Persons in Family							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23,828	32,227	40,626	49,025	57,424	65,823	74,222	82,626

**Table 5**

*Low Income: 40% AMI by Household Size*

Persons in Family							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19,640	22,440	25,240	28,040	30,320	32,560	34,800	37,040



**Table 6***Moderate Income: 300% FPG by Household Use*

Persons in Family							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
38,640	52,260	65,880	79,500	93,120	106,740	120,360	133,980

**Table 7***Moderate Income: 65% AMI by Household Size*

Persons in Family							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31,915	36,465	41,015	45,565	49,270	52,910	56,550	60,190

The annual income includes income from all people in the household. At least three months of source documents (e.g., wage statement, interest statement, and so forth) as verification of income is required for review. In addition, a written statement regarding the amount of the family’s annual income and family size must be certified for completion and accuracy. This certification also requires that the family provide source documents upon request.

The three-year DBAS MALP is considered an affordable loan program application proposal from the ASG ARPA Oversight Office. The DBAS President will be directly involved in preparing the DBAS MALP and submitting recommendations to the DBAS Board of Directors for review and approval. To deliver a quick and reasonably proportional response to the dire need of families and households negatively impacted by COVID-19, DBAS plans to start implementing DBAS MALP by June 2022 and have it completed by December 31, 2026.

With AHLP funding, DBAS will aid low-income and moderate-income families and households to address their housing needs to mitigate the community spread of the novel coronavirus and live in a safe and healthy environment during the COVID-19 outbreak in the territory and beyond. With its educational outreach activities with potential borrowers, DBAS will be able to provide cognitive awareness of alleviating one’s desperate and miserable conditions and boost the community’s physical, social, and economic morale. With DBAS MALP, DBAS will achieve its mission “to serve the economic and development needs of the community of American Samoa through affordable financial services” and not leave any impoverished family in isolation, even in times of home quarantines and self-isolation.

### **Community Engagement**

The DBAS administrator will issue the Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the DBAS MALP to be announced via the local media (e.g., newspaper advertisements, radio community

bulletin announcements, DBAS social media and website) for at least 15 days prior to conducting community workshops.

The following is the *Community Engagement Plan* of DBAS:

Community engagement is an essential aspect of ARPA funded projects. The intent of the US Treasury in fostering public participation is to maintain transparency and provide opportunities for feedback to ensure that funds are used in the most beneficial manner. In keeping with the intent of the US Treasury and the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office, the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) has adopted the following notice and comment timeline for proposed projects:

- A Notice of the Development Bank of American Samoa Proposed Projects will be published online, in local newspapers, and via television or radio broadcasts.
- The Notice will specify that there will be fifteen (15) days for the public to provide comments either in writing or by attendance at scheduled public hearings.
- Concurrent to the publication of the Notice, a draft proposal and scope of work will be published on the ARPA website for the public to review.
- General meetings with the public will be scheduled and publicized within the fifteen (15) days' Notice period. Email comments will be accepted.
- Presentations to the Legislature will be conducted during the Notice period, as needed.
- At the close of the public comment period, the agency will have twenty (20) days to revise the project as appropriate and submit the Final Draft to the ARPA Oversight Office.
- The Final Draft of the Project will be posted for public review once completed and certified by the ARPA Oversight Office.

It is the responsibility of the Development Bank of American Samoa to publicize notices and adhere to the stated timelines. Upon the final approval of the ARPA Oversight Office, DBAS will initiate a general public engagement schedule to inform the community of the final program guidelines.

#### Engagement Schedule:

- 1 **June 13, 2022** – Initiated Community Engagement Plan (Completed)
- 2 **June 21, 2022**- General Meeting with Public (Completed)
- 3 **July 5, 2022** - Public Comment period closed (Completed)
- 4 **July 25, 2022** - DBAS revised the project as appropriate and submitted final draft to ARPA Office. (Completed)
- 5 **August 9-11, 2022** – DBAS MALP Workshops conducted at the Lee Auditorium, Pago Pago, American Samoa for Tutuila Residence only. (Completed)
- 6 **September 6, 2022** – 1<sup>st</sup> DBAS MALP Lottery (Completed)
- 7 **September 19, 2022** DBAS MALP Workshops conducted at the Lee Auditorium, Pago Pago, American Samoa for Tutuila Residence only. (Completed)
- 8 **October 17, 2022** – 2<sup>nd</sup> DBAS MALP Lottery (Completed)

#### **Community Workshops:**

Several community workshops in Manu'a, Eastern and Western Districts must be held to properly inform the community about the available DBAS MALP funding. Virtual and in-person

community workshops are required to better notify the public about the project requirements. Interested individuals must attend at least one community workshop as a pre-requisite to participate in the DBAS MALP Lottery Process.

### **DBAS MALP Lottery Process:**

The DBAS MALP Lottery is a pre-application process method used by DBAS to ensure that individuals who wish to apply have attended a Community Workshop and that the potential applicant is fully aware of the DBAS MALP requirements. A certain number of DBAS MALP applications will be disseminated to winning lottery ticket holders. The number of winning lottery tickets will be determined according to the entitlement funding allocation by the respective Districts. The lottery process guarantees a potential borrower receives an application, but it does not guarantee the approval of their DBAS MALP loan application. Every application will go through a loan underwriting process and the numerical order in which the lottery ticket winners were drawn.

Each district will be allotted a number of lottery winners. For example, Eastern District will have 50 lottery ticket winners, whereas available funding for the district builds up to 37 new homes and leaves 13 alternative lottery winners on the waiting list. However, if the first 37 of the 50 lottery ticket winners all meet qualifications and requirements in the underwriting process, then the remaining 13 lottery winners will forfeit the opportunity. As previously mentioned, lottery winners are determined in the numeric order in which lottery tickets are drawn. If there are vacancies due to the inability to satisfy the loan underwriting process and exhausting all 50 winning lottery tickets, another lottery date will be announced, and the process will be repeated with an assigned number of lottery ticket winners to be pulled.

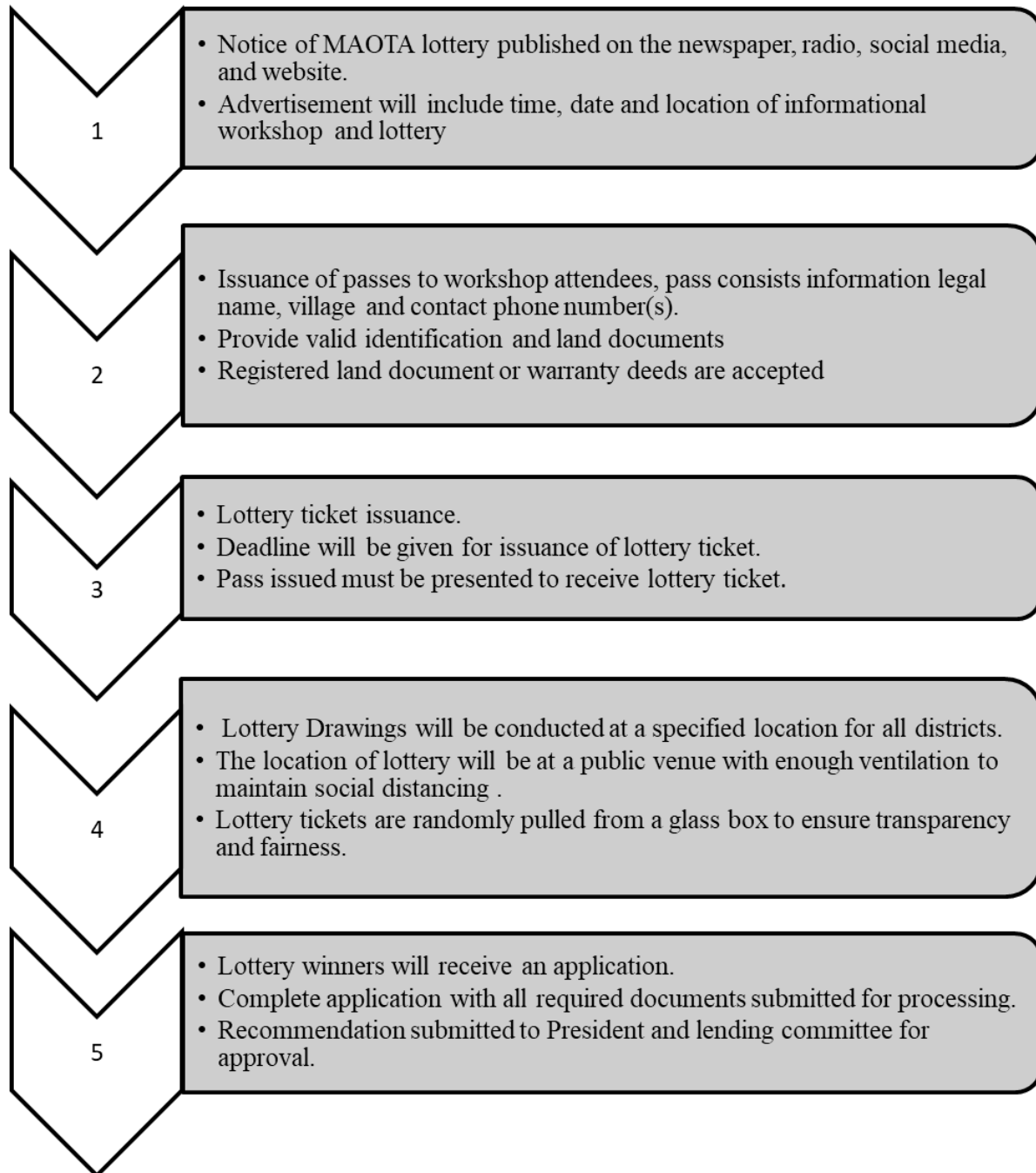
The lottery process has been used by DBAS in administering the HUD HOME program for more than six years. It has proven to be effective as it has ensured transparency and fairness. This process may take up to two weeks and it starts with individual workshops for each district on a designated day and ends with a public lottery that will be held on one day for all districts. Workshops are conducted to inform and answer any of the public's questions concerning the DBAS MALP. After the workshops, passes will be given out to the attendees; this pass is to account for the potential borrowers that have attended one of the informational workshops.

To receive a lottery ticket a potential borrower must present a pass, identification, and land documents to satisfy pre-qualifications. If a potential borrower misplaced or lost the lottery ticket, he or she may still attend the public lottery, and provide proper identification to verify that lottery ticket number belongs to him or her.

The lottery will take place at a public venue where all those that received lottery tickets will attend. Four glass boxes containing lottery tickets for the three districts and one for Tutuila renovations will be displayed at the public lottery. Other ASG agencies, non-profit and NGO representatives will be invited to witness and ensure transparency and fairness of the lottery. The lottery will also be broadcast on KVZK-TV and social media. The lottery winners will be given two weeks at most to complete and submit all the requirements on the application checklist. All names of approved applicants and their awarded amounts will be posted on the DBAS website.

**Figure 1**

*Development Bank of American Samoa Maota Affordable Loan Project Lottery Process*



## **PROJECT INVENTORY**

Project Name: DBAS Maota Affordable Loan Project

Total Funding Amount: \$8,000,000.00

Period Covered: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

### Project Overview:

The Development Bank of American Samoa Maota Affordable Loan Project (DBAS MALP) is funded under the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan. The DBAS MALP is a timely and proportional response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact by providing affordable housing loans to low-income and moderate-income families and households. Through the DBAS MALP, families and households in Manu' a, Eastern, and Western Tutuila Districts will be able to access high-quality primary residence single-family housing units or renovate existing home structures in a safe and healthy environment.

### Use of Evidence

By implementing DBAS MALP, DBAS will achieve the following goals and objectives as listed in the American Rescue Plan Act.

- To develop viable communities by providing decent and affordable homes for low-income families or households.
- To create and increase a suitable living environment within the community.
- To expand economic development opportunities primarily for persons of low and moderate-income.
- To increase the number of quality affordable homes across the Territory.

### Performance Report

Implementation of the DBAS MALP, DBAS accomplished the following:

- Hired a Project Manager.
- Hired two building inspectors.
- Hired two loan officers.
- Hired an Office Assistant and Administrative Assistant.
- Conducted orientation workshops on the DBAS MALP for prospective, interested loan applicants.
- Issued passes and lottery tickets to prospective, interested loan applicants.
- Conducted the lottery and picked the winners to apply for home renovations and new homes.
- First round DBAS MALP Lottery was conducted on September 6, 2022, and 25 applicants were selected for a chance to apply for home renovations, 7 applicants from Eastern District were pulled for new home and 15 Western District applicants were selected for new home.
- Second round Conducted DBAS MALP workshops with residents of Tutuila on September 19, 2022, at the Lee Auditorium, Pago Pago, American Samoa; 400+ members of the community attended.
- Reviewed submitted loan applications.
- Approved loan applications that met all the loan requirements
- Submitted administrative expenses for reimbursement.
- Established an MALP ACH account.
- DBAS Maota Grants Team attended the *ARPA Mandatory Workshop* on reporting at the ASG ARPA Oversight Office on September 7, 2022.

- The DBAS MALP loan officers participated in the workshop on underwriting loans conducted by the DBAS President Ruth Matagi.
- Conducted DBAS MALP workshops with residents of Tutuila on August 9-10, 2022, at the Lee Auditorium, Pago Pago, American Samoa; 438 members of the community attended.
- As of June 2023, we have committed funding of \$880,000 for 15 New Home Constructions for Tutuila residence and have disbursed **\$207,115.22**. (Please see report attached with status of each project)
- As of June 2023, we have committed funding of \$523,996.00 for 32 Home Renovations for Tutuila residence and have disbursed **\$247,695.90**. (Please see report attached with status of each project)

**ARPA Project Name: Broadband iNEI Initiative**

**ARPA Funds: \$10,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00114-2022**

<b>EC 5.21</b>	<b>Broadband: Other projects</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
----------------	----------------------------------	------------------------

**AS Department of Commerce**

**Timeline to implementation: Launched with Expected Completion in 2024-2025**

To ensure that the territory is properly equipped to respond to COVID-19 using broadband moving forward by facilitating much-needed improvements to our telecommunications systems and infrastructure. The three main projects funded under ARPA Broadband iNEI Grant Program facilitates improvements in telecommunications systems and infrastructure. Local Internet Service Providers have been sub awarded (through a grant application process) the following projects:

- 1) ASTCA – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)

ASTCA will modernize and upgrade its current network to a 5G network, improving accessibility, quality, and service. The newly 5G network will provide American Samoa with speeds that would meet or exceed the upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps.

- 2) BlueSky – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)

BlueSky will modernize and upgrade its current network to a 5G network, improving accessibility, quality, and service. The project will advance the mobile network infrastructure to better serve American Samoa and its people.

- 3) ASTCA – Manu’a Cable Repair (\$2,800,000)

ASTCA will repair and armor the undersea interisland submarine fiber optic cable, restoring service and building a more resilient system.

In addition to the three projects outlined above, the American Samoa Department of Commerce’s BCORD (Broadband Connectivity, Opportunities, Redevelopment and Deployment Office) has outlined administrative costs associated with the implementation of this project, including outreach, project monitoring, staffing and other general administrative costs, at \$500,000 or 5% of the grant award.

**Uses of Funds**

As with the rest of the United States, the impact of COVID-19 on the Territory of American Samoa was enormous. Looking at it from a technical capacity perspective, many individuals both in the private and public sector turned to virtual methods of work, meetings, religious services and in general all public services. This in turn created an increase in demand for reliable broadband services for purposes beyond entertainment and personal use. It is important to understand with the prior statement, that broadband capacity in American Samoa exists but is very limited due to affordability and reliability of these services. This project aims to start working to close the gaps for reliability and affordability by improving connectivity to our most remote underserved and unserved populations in American Samoa. Two projects focus entirely on rebuilding and improving the cellular networks of the two providers in the Territory – with the remaining project focusing on the repair of damaged domestic undersea fiberoptic cables running to outer islands.

As noted above in a narrative, this is the funding break down:



<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expensed</b>	<b>Obligated</b>	<b>Unobligated</b>
N/A	Broadband iNEI Programs (Sub-Awards)	\$9,500,000.00	\$4,305,000.00	\$5,195,000.00	\$0.00
BCORD.1	Broadband iNEI Admin Costs	\$500,000.00	\$28,075.36	\$4,622.00	\$471,924.64
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$4,333,075.36</b>	<b>\$5,199,622</b>	<b>\$471,924.64</b>

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

The Broadband iNEI program focuses on providing improved broadband services to all areas of American Samoa through improved 5G (mobile) capacity as well as significant infrastructure undersea fiber optic cable domestic repairs to outer islands here in the Territory.

The equitable outcomes of this will be access or increased access to high-speed internet access to rural America (American Samoa itself) and its inhabitants.

### **Use of Evidence**

The program is largely unchanged from the prior annual submission, where the sub-awardees received funding to facilitate their individual projects. The sub-awardees submitted project proposals to the American Samoa Department of Commerce which were then evaluated and selected by a panel of subject matter experts for consideration as eligible sub-awards.

### **Performance Report**

Below is a summary of the performance thus far for each of the specific projects, as well as some notes on the administrative cost progress. Both providers are moving quickly and on time with their 5G network upgrades. The Manu’a Cable Repair project from ASTCA has hit a slowdown period due to some complexities with scheduling the cable repair ship, however ASTCA has completed most of the pre-work (diving and assessments of the cable landing station) – and is just awaiting some permitting requirements as well as the repair ship.

ASTCA – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)

- ASTCA is working closely with Ericsson to troubleshoot issues starting with Tafuna and then move to next sites. So far, it has improved compared to before, but will get better.

BlueSky – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)

- Phase 1 Deployment and launch of 5G NR across Tutuila and Aunu’u
- Phase 2 Increase 5G capacity and 5G sites across Tutuila and Aunu’u
- Phase 3:
  - Deployment of three sites in Manu’a
  - Deployment of two new coverage sites in Tutuila – Sailele and Fagali’i

ASTCA – Manu’a Cable Repair (\$2,800,000)

- Scheduling a cable repair ship
- Obtaining proper permitting (scheduling conflicts)

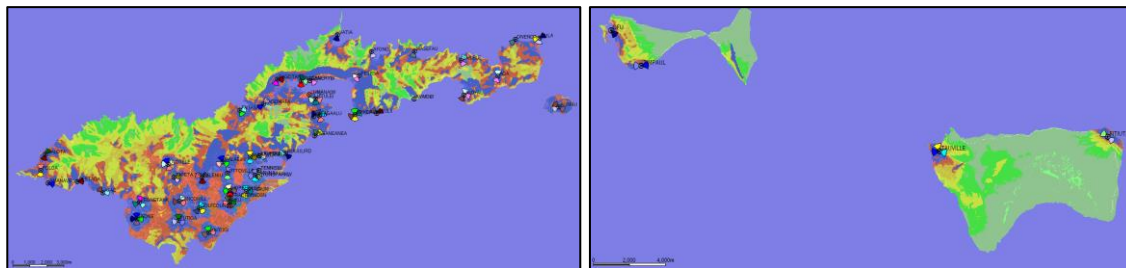
American Samoa Department of Commerce – BCORD Administrative Costs (\$500,000)

- Continued monitoring of project status.

The following is programmatic data that show anticipated coverage and speed rates:

PROJECT	Confirm whether project will achieve symmetrical speeds of 100Mbps download and upload. (Y/N)	Confirm whether ISP participates in the ACP program or equivalent. (Y/N)	Project Technology Type? (Fiber, Coaxial Cable, Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, or Other)	Total amount of fiber deployed  (if applicable)	Total number of locations served*	Pre-SLFRF Investment Speeds**	Post SLFRF Investment Speeds (Planned/Actual)***	Total Number of Residential and Business Locations Served****
ASTCA 5G	Y	Y	Other	NA	See Tab (sites, sectors, etc.)	100/10	100/100	LANDLINE: 9365 BROADBAND: 6673 WIRELESS: 11706
Bluesky 5G	Y	Y	Mobile	N/A	43	25/5	100/70 at launch with incremental increase to 100/100	52,665
ASTCA Manu’a Cable Repairs	Y	Y	Other: Submarine Cable	3,000+ Feet	Ofu & Ta’u communities, including Anchor Communities (see <i>Community ta b</i> )	Unknown	100/100	Manu’a Residential Cust. = 52 Manu’a Business Cust. = 28

The following are coverage maps for services offered by both ASTCA and Bluesky (sub-grantees), respectively:



**ARPA Project Name: ASPA Water System Improvement Projects**

**ARPA Funds: \$20,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00201-2022; SLFRF-T-A00202-2022; SLFRF-T-A00203-2022; SLFRF-T-A00204-2022; SLFRF-T-A00205-2022; SLFRF-T-A00206-2022; SLFRF-T-A00207-2022; SLFRF-T-A00208-2022; SLFRF-T-A00209-2022**

<b>5.11</b>	<b>Drinking Water: Transmission &amp; Distribution</b>	<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>
-------------	--	------------------------

**ASPA**

**Timeline to Implementation: Launched with Expected Completion in 2024-2025**

The current approach for ASPA utilizing the SLFRF is to ensure the funds are spent in a broad-based manner so the greatest numbers of residents are benefited. This approach will be used by providing area residents with a safe and clean drinking water that is highly accessible and designed to serve the largest number of residents possible. ASPA also worked with community partners to assist the most at-risk residents. Further, any future program design will prioritize ease of navigation, accessibility, and administrative simplification. This will make sure SLFRF are delivered quickly and efficiently while minimizing bureaucratic hurdles.

ASPA is approaching the use of SLFRF while focusing on the following areas:

a) Goals:

As already highlighted, ASPA has been approved a number of Water projects throughout the Territory. Many of these projects are interdependent on one another and performing them in isolation would fail to substantially improve the quality and resiliency of the water infrastructure in the Territory. However, many of these projects will benefit Qualified Census Tracts and other historically underserved groups, thereby improving quality of life in disproportionately impacted communities

b) Awareness:

SLFRF awareness has been promoted by openly discussing the use of SLFRF during public meetings of ASPA proposed projects and also receiving feedback from various constituent groups. The Territory’s community officials are exploring a variety of tools and resources that will ensure programs designed and implemented with SLFRF will be promoted widely to maximize awareness

c) Access and Distribution:

ASPA is still considering and reviewing various program designs within the eligible expenditure categories of the SLFRF. However, any such program designs will emphasize the importance of being accessible to a variety of residents and businesses while serving their practical needs.

d) Outcomes:

At this time, ASPA is focusing on using SLFRF to improve the Water Infrastructure in a broad based, community wide public health and economic recovery effort that will focus on reaching universal levels of service by benefiting the greatest number of eligible residents, businesses, and community groups. Also, funds will be used to continue delivering County services despite the disruptions brought by the pandemic.

ASPA will continue to prioritize the SLFRF guidelines that reaches residents and communities most in need of assistance. ASPA understands the disparate impacts of the pandemic, with some communities and groups experiencing greater levels of economic and public health impacts. ASPA’s goal is to analyze and understand these impacts in the coming months and use this information to deploy SLFRF in a manner that maximizes reach to these populations.

To date, ASPA has taken an ideal approach to deploying SLFRF, which will allow the Utility to design projects that use a quantitative methodology to promote equitable outcomes for residents. The intent is to use SLFRF in a manner that is evidence driven and is capable of capturing data after the fact in order to conduct program evaluation. Programs that take this approach often maximize the benefits brought by public funds. This approach requires time for research and development as well as community input; therefore, many of the considered uses of the SLFRF are still in the exploratory phase.

### **Community Engagement**

Currently, ASPA has had several community inputs regarding the use of SLFRF. Elected officials that represent the residents of the Territory have also been in communication with ASPA officials to propose various uses of these funds. ASPA Management has based its SLFRF projects on all valuable inputs and safety of our Territory's resident's public safety.

### **Labor Practices**

Infrastructure related and other SLFRF projects will support local businesses by providing them the opportunity to bid on contracts. ASPA will award bids and enter into contracts as outlined in the Federal and local American Samoa Laws and Administrative Codes. Any sub-recipient of the SLFRF funds will also be required to follow the guidelines. This process increases participation and transparency in the award and contracting process. Further, ASPA will adhere to American Samoa's prevailing wage rates as set forth by the American Samoa Government for SLFRF projects when applicable. This will support strong wage rates for labor and help promote an equitable recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Use of Evidence**

The rules and regulations provided by the Department of The Treasury emphasize the use of evidence for certain SLFRF supported projects. ASPA will ensure all are supported by evidence and have a proven record of success to;

- a. Better prepare the territory for COVID-19 variants and other pandemics by providing exceptional and safe drinking water service to Quarantine facilities, LBJ Hospital, Schools, Ports, businesses and residences.
- b. Enable ASPA to lift the Boil Water Notice
- c. Reduce the Non-Revenue Water
- d. Improve water quality
- e. Conservation of groundwater aquifers

### **Performance Report**

The projects awarded to the American Samoa Power Authority under the *Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Water Transmission Projects* include the following;

- a. Replacing several miles of deteriorating Asbestos-cement (AC), Cast Iron (CI) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe with new Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pipe,
- b. The exploration drilling and connecting of new wells,
- c. The rehabilitation of welded steel tanks and
- d. The reduction of water salinity within the Eastside villages of Tutuila using RO technology.

The list below are the approved Recovery Plan Project that had public hearings so the residents had the opportunity to see a full list of expenditure proposed;

**List of \$20M ARPA Award for ASPA Water System Improvement Projects**

1. ACP Replacement (Tafuna)	\$ 4,000,000
2. ACP Replacement (Pago)	\$ 2,000,000
3. ACP Replacement (Aua)	\$ 3,500,000
4. CIP Replacement (Pago Hillside)	\$ 2,500,000
5. ACP Replacement Airport Loop (Tafuna)	\$ 1,500,000
6. Well Exploration Drilling and Connection (Tutuila)	\$ 2,000,000
7. HDPE Pipe Replacement Phase III (Tualauta)	\$ 8,870
8. Rehabilitation of Welded Steel Tanks (Tutuila)	\$ 700,000
9. Water Salinity Reduction (East Side Tutuila, Aunuu)	\$ 1,800,000
10. Coagulation-Flocculation Treatment Plant (Wells 72 & 81)	\$ 1,991,130

**PROJECT INVENTORY**

**Project A00201: ACP Replacement (Tafuna)**

**Funding Amount:** \$4,000,000.00

**Project Manager:** Edmon Lacaulan

**Project Status**

- 70% of the design is complete, fire flow testing is on-going
- 50% design complete
- PNRS hearing for land use permit completed

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Complete Bid Documents for RFP (construction) and RFQ (Material Supply)
- Complete Land Use Permits

**Project A00202: ACP Replacement (Pago)**

**Funding Amount:** \$2,000,000.00

**Project Manager:** Edmon Lacaulan

**Project Status**

- Final design package including plans, specifications, cost estimates, and structural plans and calculations for the Pipe crossing at Vaipito Stream being transmitted and under ASPA review.
- Pre-final design submittal completed, awaiting final review and comments from ASPA
- PNRS site visit for Land use permit completed
- Preliminary design deliverables completed, reviewed, and awaiting corrections from the designer per ASPA comments.

**Performance Challenges**

- Covid-19 Pandemic has caused delays in meeting the procurement Processes

- Shipping delays

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Complete Procurement Process
- Award Contracted for Material
- Complete Land Use Permit

**Project A00203: ACP Replacement (Aua)**

**Funding Amount:** \$3,500,000.00

**Project Manager:** Kris McPhee

**Project Status**

- RFQ for Materials was issued and the closing date is July 19, 2023. Prepare RFP for the project construction

**Project Accomplishments**

- Completed design portion of project

**Performance Challenges**

- COVID-19 pandemic delays the progress of the design

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Tendering for contractor to construct project

**Project A00204: Cast Iron Pipe Replacement (Pago Hillside)**

**Funding Amount:** \$2,500,000.00

**Project Manager:** Alessandra Reed Sesepasara

**Project Status**

- 06.19.23 Design in Progress
- 05.23.23 LUP No. 22-8485 ASG approved
- 04.10.23 NTP Issued

**Project Accomplishments**

- 03.20.23 Pre-Design Meeting Completed

**Performance Challenges**

- Evolving changes to improve the Pago Pago Water System due to challenges with water source and quality.

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- ☐ Effective/continuous communication between owner/client, designer, and the Community/public.
- Project Design Phase Complete
- QC on A&E Firm/Contractor work performance to be satisfactory.

**Project A00205: ACP Replacement Airport Loop Tafuna**

**Funding Amount:** \$1,500,000.00

**Project Manager:** Raynel Krishna

**Project Status**

- The procurement department is currently in the process of acquiring materials for purchase.
- Permitting and design is on progress

**Project Accomplishments**

- N/A

**Performance Challenges**

- N/A

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Design Phase to replace existing AC Pipe completed.

**Project A00206: Well Exploration Drilling and Connection**

**Funding Amount:** \$ 2,000,000.00

**Project Manager:** Katrina Mariner

**Project Status**

- Land Use Permits are in progress

**Project Accomplishments**

Well ID:	Village:	Funding:	Details:	Status:
8	Pavaiai	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 106 survey completed, RFC letter drafted and submitted by ASPA archaeology to ASHPO office. Awaiting response.</li> <li>• Needs ASHPO concurrence</li> <li>• Scheduled for drilling after the new Pavaiai tank has been installed</li> </ul>
13	Pavaiai	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 106 survey completed, RFC letter drafted and submitted by ASPA archaeology to ASHPO office. Awaiting response.</li> <li>• Needs ASHPO concurrence</li> <li>• Scheduled for drilling after the new Pavaiai tank has been installed</li> </ul>



Well ID:	Village:	Funding:	Details:	Status:
14	Canco Hill	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROW Easement in Progress</li> <li>• This new site is located after the new EPA funded Canco Hill Well 25 currently undergoing connections to the system</li> </ul>
16	Vatia	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASHPO concurrence received for this project.</li> <li>• Drilling site preparation is 90% complete and drilling for this new well is scheduled for June.</li> </ul>
21	Asili	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling site preparation is scheduled to commence in June, this well will be drilled in July after Vatia drilling.</li> <li>• Note: Emergency water source to provide for inland of Asili area currently without portable water for residents that moved inland after the 2009 tsunami</li> </ul>
205	Ofu	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting ROW Easement to commence permitting.</li> <li>• This well project will include the installation of a new replacement tank in Ofu for this well to feed into</li> <li>• This well also helps contribute to the Olosega Island water supply</li> </ul>
206	Olosega-Manu'a	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting ROW Easement to commence permitting.</li> <li>• This is an emergency well to be drilled near the new Olosega tank to provide source water in case the supply from Ofu is cut off during times of a natural disaster. This well will need a reverse osmosis (R.O) unit as chloride levels is expected to be high in all areas of Olosega</li> </ul>
210	Fitiuta-Manu'a	ARPA	FY321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting ROW Easement to commence permitting.</li> <li>• This well is located next to the Fitiuta tank site and will feed into the Fitiuta tank.</li> </ul>

### Performance Challenges

- N/A

### Performance Quarterly Goals

- Obtain Easements
- Complete ASHPO concurrence
- Submit to ASEPA PTC's and schedule site visits

- Complete Land Use Permits

### **Project A00207: HDPE Pipe Replacement Phase III Tualauta**

**Funding Amount:** \$ 8,870

**Project Manager:** Lomitusi Tyrell

#### **Project Status**

- Design is 100% Complete
- Permitting and RFQ/RFP in progress
- Project has been redirected to other source of funding

#### **Project Accomplishments**

- Design is 100% complete
- Permitting under process

#### **Performance Challenges**

- Covid-19 Pandemic has caused delays design Process

#### **Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Completed ARPA Goals for Designing Water Safety for the Territory
- Amend RFQ/RFP to alleviate Coagulation

### **Project A00208: Rehabilitation of Existing Welded Steel Tanks**

**Funding Amount:** \$700,000.00

**Project Manager:** Hua-Hsien Wei

#### **Project Status**

- Project is 66% complete

#### **Project Accomplishments**

- Contract Awarded to JF Tanks for three (3) Tanks
- Completed Rehabilitation for Pavaiai Tank #2
- Issued NTP for Pavaiai Tank #3 Rehabilitation
- Completed Pavaiai Tank #3 Rehabilitation work.

#### **Performance Challenges**

- Nationwide Delays in finding vendors for procuring supplies and materials.
- Lease renewal issues with Pavaiai Tank #1 landowners resulted in cancelling the rehabilitation work scheduled for this site.
- Only rehabilitation work for Pavaiai Tank #2 and #3 will be done and both projects are completed.

#### **Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Completed Pavaiai Tank #2 Rehabilitation work.
- Completed Pavaiai Tank #3 Rehabilitation

### Project A00209: Water Salinity Reduction Project

**Funding Amount:** \$1,800,000.00

**Project Manager:** Katrina Mariner

**Project Status**

- Project RFP is out for advertisements for both Aunu'u Desalination System and the new R.O's for Pago Pago, Fagaitua and Alao.
- Redirection Completed: \$800K redirected from Rehabilitation of Existing Welded Steel Tanks to add three RO units for the Eastside.

**Project Accomplishments**

- Site visit and easement application for Desalination plant scheduled.
- RFP for project materials closes on June 30, 2023

**Performance Challenges**

- N/A

**Performance Quarterly Goals**

- Ongoing Permitting Process

### Project A00210: Coagulation-Flocculation Treatment Plant (Wells 72 & 81)

**Funding Amount:** \$ 1,991,130

**Project Manager:** Matiasi Yabakivou

**Project Status**

- 06.23.2023 Request approved to Amend project HDPE Pipe Replacement Phase III to Coagulation-Flocculation Treatment Plant (Wells 72 & 81)

**Expenditures**

**Projects Summary**

The following are expensed and encumbered amounts of ASPA Water System Improvement Projects for the below period.

**Current Period:** April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

**Budget Period:** 02/16/2022 - 12/31/2024

Project ID	Project Name	Obligation		Expenses	
		Current Period	Cumulative Period	Current Period	Cumulative Period
A00201	ACP Replacement (Tafuna)	\$-	\$7,481.19	\$4,932.32	\$7,481.19

A00202	ACP Replacement (Pago)	\$-	\$4,630.60	\$574.64	\$4,630.60
A00203	ACP Replacement (Aua)	\$-	\$1,684.88	\$743.23	\$743.23
A00204	Cast Iron Pipe Replacement (Pago Hillside)	\$-	\$32,313.56	\$11,020.08	\$32,313.56
A00205	ACP Replacement Airport Loop Tafuna	\$-	\$13,948.19	\$12,403.60	\$12,403.60
A00206	Well Exploration Drilling and Connection	\$-	\$1,172,893.88	\$93,839.85	\$944,823.21
A00207	HDPE Pipe Replacement Phase III (Tualauta)	\$-	\$8,869.60	-	\$8,869.60
A00208	Rehabilitation of Existing Welded Steel Tanks	\$-	\$548,195.88	\$64,684.78	\$545,005.55
A00209	Water Salinity Reduction Project	\$-	\$87,642.59	\$26,625.78	\$60,646.38
A00210	Coagulation-Flocculation Treatment Plant (Wells 72 & 81)	\$-	-	-	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$1,877,660.37</b>	<b>\$214,824.28</b>	<b>\$1,616,916.92</b>

**ARPA Project Name: ARPA Cash Assistance Program (CAP) for Impacted Non-Profit Workers**

**ARPA Funds: \$500,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00122-2022**

<b>2.9</b>	<b>Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
------------	---	---------------------

**AS Department of Human Resources**

**Timeline to implementation: Launched (95% Complete)**

American Samoa was hit with COVID-19 community transmission on February 22, 2022, which prompted immediate shutdown of all government operations and businesses except essential services. Governor Lemanu issued an emergency public declaration and imposed Code Red restrictions. The shutdown and restrictions caused disruptions to normal business operations and negatively impacted the private sector community including non-profit organizations. Their employees have faced financial challenges because of reduced work hours and loss of income.

The attached expenditure report reflects the actual number of claimants for non-profit organizations that have applied for assistance during this quarter.

**ARPA CAP UNEMPLOYMENT**

**ACCOUNT STATUS**

	(A) TOTAL CLAIMS	(B) TOTAL PD CLAIMS	(C) TOTAL PD AMT	(D) TOTAL ENC. CLAIMS	(E) TOTAL ENC. AMT	(F=A-B-D) TOTAL PENDING CLAIMS
<b>Non-Profits</b>						
<b>1 HOPE HOUSE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$5,908</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>2 HOLY FAMILY PARISH</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,168</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>3 PACIFIC HORIZONS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$6,063</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>4 TONGAN MARKET</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$2,316</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>5 ALEGA PRESERATION</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,920</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>6 HAPPY HOUSE DAYCARE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>7 HARBOR LIGHTS PIANO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>8 CANCER COALITION</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>9 SOUTH PAC. ACADEMY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,792</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>10 SOUTH PAC. WATER</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>11 WORKING MAMA'S</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>

12	<b>DIOCESE OF SAMOA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$2,235</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
13	<b>LDS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>
14	<b>LITTLE ANGELS DAYCARE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
15	<b>TALOFA TAMAITI DAYCARE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>
16	<b>CHRISTOPHER JAMES FEOLETINI LEDOUX FOUNDATION</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$10,632</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
		56		\$39,214			6

The project was opened for intake on June 28, 2022 after the media advertisements on the local KVZK television and the KSBS Radio station broadcasted this program.

Due to the Emergency Declaration and shutdown for the Territory, this program will assist many of the employees for the non-profit organizations who were impacted during the period of February 22 to April 18, 2022.

**ARPA Project Name: Public Buildings CDC Compliance Program**

**ARPA Funds: \$12,000,000.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00116A-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116B-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116C-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116D-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116E-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116F-2022; SLFRF-T-A00116G-2022**

<b>EC 1.4</b>	<b>Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)</b>	<b>\$12,000,000.00</b>
---------------	---	------------------------

**American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office**

**Timeline to implementation: 1-4 months**

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of social distancing measures as well as ensuring public spaces are well-ventilated and maintained. American Samoa, like many other jurisdictions, implemented many different policies to ensure that social distancing is effectively practiced.

In practice, however, it has become clear that many of ASG’s buildings are in need of improvements or new facilities to meet pandemic operational needs. Improvements to the buildings or new construction to replace facilities that are incapable of meeting these needs are necessary for public health and safety. This is particularly true with the updated guidance from the CDC.

A number of government agencies applied for funding with the following projects being approved. A portion of this award will also be made available to ASG agencies and departments for emergency response to address their immediate needs during the COVID-19 pandemic for a safe working environment.

**A00116A: Modernizing Government Business Processes in a COVID-19 Working Environment**

**Department of the Treasury**

**Funding Amount: \$1,480,000.00**

**Project Overview**

The purpose of this project is mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in public spaces related to financial operations by leveraging the use of technology in varying manners as described in the original project proposal. This project addresses the need to modernize many government processes and procedures, using technology:

- 1) in the upgrade of Enterprise Resource Planning software
- 2) improvement of the government Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software,
- 3) government communications platform (email),
- 4) productivity software licensing,
- 5) IT support systems,
- 6) cyber security (computer replacements)
- 7) a system to manage external (to the ERP software) workflows, forms, and e-signatures.

This project contributes to addressing climate change in that it focuses primarily on moving older physical and manual processes (part of our COVID-19 mitigation) into digital processes. It



will positively contribute to climate change impacts by reducing the amount of paper created, leveraging the use of electronic archiving systems and electronic methods of transmitting paperwork bundles and batches in between agencies.

### **Performance Report**

The Department of Treasury has made significant progress since the prior reporting period. Approximately, an additional 6% of project completion was made since March 2023. At present Task 1 and Task 2 near starting, with Task 7 underway from the prior performance period. Task 3, 4, 5, and 6 are completed. The Department remains committed to establishing an internal innovation and change management working group to support Task 1, 2 and 7.

For a further detailed update:

Task 1 & 2 are in the final stages of the procurement process, with a contract waiting to be issued to the vendor. We anticipate the project starting between July and August of 2023. 20%

Task 3 is completed 100% since the prior reporting period (August 2022)

Task 4 is completed 100% since the prior reporting period (August 2022)

Task 5 is completed 100%. since the prior reporting period (August 2022)

Task 6 is completed 100% since the prior reporting period (August 2022)

Task 7 is slightly behind schedule, with an anticipated launch date of the ASG Procurement Contracts feature/functions by the end of July. More time was required to outline in detail individual processes at the department level and incorporate them into the respective signature workflows. This project is now at 35% completed.

### **A00116B: Vacuum Truck and Cubicles**

#### **Department of Public Works**

**Funding amount: \$700,000.00**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) intends to use this award towards the purchase of Office Cubicles and a Vacuum Truck. DPW's office spaces will be reorganized to accommodate the new cubicles in order to allow for an efficient, safe and healthy working environment for employees and customers. The Vacuum Truck will replace the old, inoperable, vacuum truck DPW already has. The Vacuum Truck is a specialized vehicle used for removing and cleaning out sludge, mud, debris, and other things of the like, from American Samoa's infrastructure drainage systems. The importance of this vehicle is for clearing out flooded areas. Flooded areas present health risks for the local populace because it brings disease, and pollution. Flooded areas also present transportation safety risks. The Vacuum Truck will have great impact to the territory because of its usefulness to clear out debris to stop the spread of disease and to prevent transportation hazards.

Project Objectives:

- Purchase a brand-new Vacuum Truck
- Purchase Cubicles for office spaces.

Performance Report:

A vendor was selected and awarded for the new Vacuum Truck: American Material Handling, Inc. Some changes were made in the funding allocation for DPW because of the cost of shipping and handling for the Vacuum Truck. Projected arrival of Vacuum Truck to American Samoa is July 2024. The new vacuum truck goes through a process of various features for the truck to be installed.

Project Name	Funding
Vacuum Truck	\$680,000.00
Office Cubicles	\$20,000.00

**A00116C: Department of Public Safety**  
**Funding Amount: \$450,000.00**

Department of Public Safety received a \$450,000.00 award through the American Recovery Plan Act to combat the spread of Covid-19 within the Territory of American Samoa. The proposed project includes 3 main/key functions: 1) to build a natural ventilation system for the Tafuna Correctional Facility (TCF), 2) major renovations for 3 quarantine sites located other substations such as the Main (Central) Station in Fagatogo, Faga'itua and Tafuna stations, and 3) provide PPE equipment, sanitation supplies, furnitures and workstation computers, printers, and scanners for DPS stations.

Public Safety Officers field emergencies, enforcement and interact daily with the general public. Although precautions are taken, the police officers are more easily susceptible to contracting the virus as they carry out their duties. The daily increase on COVID19 positive cases also means a daily strain on the responsibilities required of the Public Safety officers to help mitigate the community spread by providing more stringent, round-the-clock surveillance throughout the Territory.

**Project Objectives**

- To improve the quality of service and mitigating the increased spread of COVID-19 within correctional facilities (TCF)
- To establish quarantine facilities for the police officers through renovation of old, unused DPS facilities
- To provide an endless supply of PPE for police officers in order to fully provide the service as required of them to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**A00116D: Department of Human Resources**  
**Funding Amount: \$475,000.00**

DHR serves more than 809 clients per month. The outbreak of the coronavirus has enabled our territory to push for automated or digitized service delivery and to evaluate

the value of remote work arrangements. DHR has been asked to do more with less; however, during this pandemic, we cannot provide or establish such policies and practices without the right tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our workspace.

Therefore, DHR seeks to reenforce social distancing by installing transparent or plexiglass barriers and also installing customer service windows for each division. DHR is seeking to acquire Zoom's Business Plan, which includes group meetings for up to thirty hours, social media streaming, 1 GB of cloud recording per license, hosting of up to 300 participants, single sign-on, transcript recording, managed domains, company branding, and up to 99 licenses. The desired software will greatly help achieve our goals as well as maintain the safety of our employees and clients.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, it is necessary to maintain an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPEs), sanitizing dispensers, and disinfecting wipes. DHR seeks to acquire PPEs, sanitizing dispensers, disinfecting wipes, sanitation services, and disinfecting sprays

To prevent any employee or individual that is symptomatic or has COVID-19, the department seeks to acquire non-contact temperature assessment devices to administer temperature readings for clients and employees entering the workplace.

The department also seeks to acquire needed electronic equipment such as laptops, mifi devices, and office printers to safely perform and complete work responsibilities and duties during Covid-19. In addition, DHR seeks to acquire decontamination/disinfecting services from a local vendor and a Robotic Process Automation Software to decrease contact with the public and other employees by routing applications for approval.

**Objectives:**

1. HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning) to improve air quality
2. PLEXIGLASS INSTALLATION for the safety of DHR-ASG employees
3. ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION, an emerging technology that will help with DHR to help provide electronic routing, approval, and information accuracy

To date, less than 50% of the project has been completed as DHR has been assessing available information on cost estimates and working with the Office of Procurement on making the proper purchases.

**A00116E: Department of Legal Affairs**

**Funding Amount: \$150,000.00**

The American Rescue Plan Act represents a bold and comprehensive response to the multifaceted challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. By providing immediate relief, stimulating economic recovery, and investing in critical sectors, the ARPA aims to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, rebuild the economy, and foster long-term resilience across the states and its territories.

Recognizing the strain on local budget of the Department of Legal Affairs, the ARPA provides substantial funding to support essential services for Immigration, Territory Registrar Office, and the Office of the Attorney General and its sub-divisions. The ARPA assistance aims to maintain critical infrastructure, provide tools and supplies for mission critical services, and facilitate a swift recovery at the local government level.

The Department of Legal Affairs was awarded \$150k from ARPA. This grant helped the department to improve the use of technology for remote access to digital resources, install protective windows and barriers that will allow key employees to work remotely and for upgrading of office space to meet Covid-19 pandemic requirements for Agencies providing public service to the community.

For the Department of Legal Affairs, Public Health (EC1) was the sole intended use of the ARPA funds, to minimize the spread of the disease in the offices and areas directly in contact with serving the public, equipping the offices and employees with the tools and protective modifications to ensure that service to the public is continued in a safe way protecting both the employee and the clients seeking services under the umbrella of the Department of Legal Affairs.

The Department of Legal Affairs use ARPA funds as follow:

- Purchase of sanitation supplies
- Purchase of computer equipment and software for remote work and system access
- Purchase printer supplies, toners and other office supplies
- Improvement of office space and furniture
- Improvement of ventilation and air condition systems

As the top Law Enforcement Agency of the American Samoa Government, the Department of Legal affairs Office of the Attorney General is the leading agency for promoting equitable outcomes and warrant that all policies and laws pertaining to civil rights is protected for all citizens and foreign nationals who resides and works or do business in American Samoa.

Department of Legal Affairs - 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report 3

Our Immigration Department provides service to thousands of requests per month for Border Entry Process, Travel Permits, Certificates of Identity, Foreign Residents Identification Process and other critical services.

The project proposed and approved for ARPA funding was intended to improve safety protocols and solidify protective measure within the workplace as required by the CDC for minimizing exposure and spread of COVID-19.

- Barriers and transparent service windows were installed at all the service counters for serving the public and community
- Improve of ventilation system or replace air conditioning systems
- Purchase of equipment and devices to allow for remote work
- Purchase of Sanitation supplies

Phase	Proposed Action Plan	Status
1	Initiation of procurement process for supplies/equipment and installation of barriers windows.	60%
2	Oversight of construction projects, supplies, and equipment secured through purchase order and remote work implemented.	60%
3	Construction of Barrier Windows and Ventilation Systems.	Complete

Goal: Ensure continual services by the Department of Legal affairs with minimal risk to the employee and the community.

Objective	Goal	Status
1.1	Ensure continual services by the Department of Legal Affairs with minimal risk to the employees and the community	Attained
1.2	By the end of Phase II, services remain uninterrupted as DLA employees and community adjust to pandemic operations	Attained
1.3	By the end of phase III, completion of construction projects will allow DLA employees to limit remote work and return to safe work environment and continue to provide services to the community efficiently and effectively	Attained

### Budget

Prime	Description	Budget	Actual	Encumbrance	Balance
5200	Supplies & Expenses	2,500.00	900.00	0	1,600.00
5300	Contractual Services	33,415.00	18,520.00	9,895.00	5,000.00
5600	Capital Outlays	54,085.00	0.00	12,109.00	41,976.00
Total ARPA		90,000.00	19,420.00	22,004.00	48,576.00

Project: DLA IMMIGRATION FUND

Funding amount: \$60,000.00

This project is in its infancy stage and no funding has been used. The objective is to spread these funds over the time allowed by ARPA.

Through its financial support, the ARPA provided the much-needed financial support for the Department of Legal Affairs to continue and effectively provide the services and functions needed by the community in regards to Legal Services, Travel Documents, Territorial Registry and other sub-divisions of the department.

ARPA funds have demonstrated the Federal Government's and the American Samoa

Government's commitment in addressing immediate crisis, economic resilience and a safe and prosperous future for all Americans.

**A00116F: Fono (Legislature of American Samoa)**

**Funding Amount: \$2,731,600.00**

The purpose of this report is to provide information on projects funded by the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). This report fulfills a US Treasury requirement to publish and submit an annual Recovery Plan Performance Report to Treasury.

The American Samoa Legislature (Fono) received its full allocation of SLFRF funds in the amount of \$2,731,600. As of June 30, 2023, the Fono has not expended any funds due to delays in construction.

**Uses of Funds**

**Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)**

The use of funds is in response to the impact of the pandemic to the American Samoa Legislature and to ensure proper covid safety measures are implemented in the construction and operative services the Legislature provides.

1. Upgrade the Air Conditioning system to enhance filtration with HEPA or MERV 13 or 14 filters; and increase fresh/outside air intake.
2. Upgrade our data and telecommunications systems within the buildings to include an improvement in the wiring to support enhanced wireless communications for virtual communications. This will facilitate and support virtual meetings and support working from home in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
3. Renovate the existing Fale Samoa to accommodate the overflow staff space for social distancing. This includes adding more work stations for displaced staff from main building after social distancing measures are implemented.
4. Add more restrooms to accommodate the staff and public. The World Health Organization recommends repeated hand washings, using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rubs or hand sanitizers.
5. Add divider partitions, sneeze guards, to promote social distancing between all of the workers in work areas.
6. Install hand sanitizing stations.
7. Utilize touchless technology throughout the building, such as door openers, auto flushing toilets, hand dryers, elevator controls, drinking fountains to lessen the spread of the virus.
  - a. Automatic Door openers for all doors, but most importantly the doors that lead into the building. With this feature, we will not only be curtailing the transmission of the virus but we will also then be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - b. The idea behind the touchless technology is to decrease the need for individuals to touch doors or toilet handles or drinking fountains. The less contact individuals have with various surfaces, the lower the possibility of spreading the virus via surfaces.
8. Provide enhanced ventilation for elevators to curb the spread of viruses and bacteria.

9. Install screens in open work areas to minimize virus transmission and facilitate social distancing
10. Install temperature check stations.
11. Install anti-microbial countertop surfaces to prevent the spread of viruses and bacteria.
12. Make adjustments to the current building space plan to enhance social distancing. Spread out workstations and seating in waiting areas; and provide screening.
13. Provide covered outdoor spaces with furniture and shade devices to encourage outdoor gathering instead of indoors.
14. Upgrade the emergency generator, if required, to support the above enhancements.
15. Install security cameras to monitor social distancing:
  - a. Security cameras will assist us with contact tracing of our employees who may contract COVID-19.
  - b. Additional surveillance will be required when doors are open for natural ventilation.
  - c. Security cameras will also assist us with enforcing social distancing and mask wearing.
- 16 . Provide laundry facilities on-site to sanitize linens used in the facility.
  - a. The use of cloth linens is more sustainable than disposable paper towels or napkin.
  - b. Cloth linens is environmentally friendly as it will reduce paper waste.
  - c. The local dependance on paper goods being shipped in is unreliable with the new normal of consistent shipping delays.
  - d. Washing and drying our own linens ensures sanitizing has occurred.

The project aims to promote the safety restrictions of the covid pandemic. Objectives of the project are to enforce social distancing in the workplace and space, sanitation stations and policies in office and meeting spaces, as well as maintaining these measures in all office operations and procedures.

The negative economic impact of the global pandemic has drastically changed the operations and services agencies and companies provide. With major adjustments to the safety and preventative measures, the project will implement the measures that society is currently practicing. The modifications as proposed will integrate and enforce the measures implemented in all public health facilities such as social distancing and masks in effect.

### **Performance Report**

The American Samoa Legislature's main building and office wings are currently under construction. The construction project began in 2018 and since the outbreak of the covid pandemic; the project has experienced numerous delays and modifications. While these adjustments are costly, the goal of the project is to ensure proper covid safety measures are implemented in the construction and operative services the Legislature provides. In doing so, this project aims to incorporate and implement the safety practices and restrictions as mandated by the government. These practices will be mandated and enforced in all legislative operations and procedures.

Due to the delays on the construction of the new Legislature main building there currently have not been any funds expended.



## **PROJECT INVENTORY**

Project	Mandatory indicators	Current Data Period	Previous Data Period
New Constructions of Legislature Main Building		0	0
Renovating Fale Samoa		0	0

### **A00116G: Office of the Administrative Law Judge Funding Amount: 185,000.00**

The Office of the Administrative Law Judge received its Letter of Award on October 31, 2022 for the full amount requested of \$185,000. The OALJ intends to utilize these funds to provide virtual services to the public through IT equipment upgrade; to ensure the building is COVID compliant through new/repairs to air ventilation systems and minor repairs to ceiling; and, to provide a safe environment to staff and the public as it continues to serve their needs. The OALJ continues to work with local agencies in the procurement process and with local and off-island vendors to provide reliable merchandise.

The itemized breakdown of the \$185,000 is as follows:

1. Total Cost of IT Equipment & Related Services \$59,709
2. Total Cost of Building Repairs / Security / and CV-19 furniture \$125,291  
(Includes \$4,291 apportionment for furniture)

1. IT Equipment & Related Services.

COVID infiltrated the territory in February of 2022 despite the government's efforts to stem its intrusion. Despite lack of funding, government agencies continued to prepare as best as possible to open its services to the public and to those strapped off-island. Remote work from home and virtual hearings are not possible due to lack of equipment and non-compliance of office set-up, as well as the office environment not being safe. Easier and quicker access to OALJ services, improved ability to allow secure remote filing, and remote participation in contested case hearings and appeals; remote work from home can be realized with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of new and improved IT equipment and services as proposed herein. The upgraded IT equipment, installation of computer network systems, and cyber security is as follows:

2. Building Repairs / Security / and CV-19 Furniture

The OALJ's award on the section of Building Repairs was revised to reflect "temporary repair" to the building from "permanent improvements" in its original proposed submission due to Governor Lemanu P. Mauga's plans to demolish the OALJ building in the near future. Thus, repairs to the building will address the immediate problems that affect the staff and public's

health with poor air circulation and ventilation. Other risks to a leaky ceiling will affect the upgraded computer equipment and electrical wiring. The minimum work done to replace wooden planks and address leaks is in progress. Ceiling fans help to improve ventilation and disperse any harmful air particles within congregated areas. Office furniture retrofitted with clear partitions minimize the risk of air borne viruses being transmitted. New custom-made furniture for hearing rooms will accommodate the judge, staff, and parties to ensure safe communication during hearings.

a. Goals and Targets & b. Project Implementation

- Upgrade of Information Technology Equipment, Cyber Security, & Service

The use of IT equipment takes the OALJ a step further in accomplishing its mission during COVID-19 restrictions. Upgraded IT equipment allows OALJ to continue hearing cases remotely. Parties to cases, who are unable to be physically present, are able to participate through online virtual hearings. Online participation of off-island expert witnesses and OALJ staff in these hearings ensure that service to the public is not interrupted or continued to another uncertain time. Cyber Security ensures that exchange of information on virtual hearings are private and confidential.;

- OALJ staff are enabled to work remotely from home or off-island should they contract COVID-19 or virus strains;
- Safeguard confidential information;
- Provide a safe office environment for staff and the public by mitigating air quality in areas where they congregate.

**A00116H: Office of Program Planning and Budget**  
**Funding Amount: \$285,000.00**

The Budget Office proposes to create a safe and healthy workplace by upgrading its existing office space for an efficient and healthy work environment for both employees and the public in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the COVID 19 Task Force in American Samoa in consistent with CDC guidelines and requirements for a healthy and safe workplace. This will also minimize exposure and health risks with the spread of COVID-19 face by employees and the general public.

The current cubicle system and carpet flooring is more than 20 years and layout setup spaces is limited, cluttered, and congested. With this funding, we hope to adjust our floor plan and upgrade our cubicle system to new clear wall partitions for seclusion and proper isolation to further secured safe and self - quarantine work spaces. We also intend to upgrade the breakroom layout to improve for better hygiene & sanitation, and can be used for quarantine in future if needed. Our plan also includes upgrades in the printing room and front area to maintain social distancing with comfort waiting area for customers. These upgrades will help control access to our office, starting from the front lobby area, while mitigating the unnecessary

traffic. Our request also includes the upgrades of A/C equipment system and all necessary amenities to improve ventilation and poor quality of air flow circulation critical in sustaining an efficient, safe, and healthy work environment. With this, we also intend to obtain the PPE COVID related office supplies and equipment essential to keep people safe.

In addition, promotion of wellness on employees with raising awareness on the COVID -19 Pandemic will be on a collaborated effort between the Budget Office and Public Health to enhance awareness and understanding thereby supporting measures for minimizing exposure and combat the spread of the COVID-19. Overall, our renovation project would highly meet our needs critical in creating safe and healthy work environment due to COVID-19 in line with ASG COVID-19 Task Force mandate with compliance with CDC guidelines on safe and healthy work environment.

The alternative of not upgrading our current office would be to relocate and lease another office space in a building that is in compliance with COVID-19 requirement and guidelines for a safe and healthy workplace environment. With that, we humbly propose total funding requested be used to obtain a new available space to lease that is/or can be modified to be COVID-19 compliant.

The budget office, (out of 8 government departments) is currently housed in the EOB building that was constructed 30 years ago. There is evidence of wear and tear all around the building especially with the infestation with pests and rodents. Currently, the budget office has a sagging cubicle system, aging walls and ceiling with possible existence of mold and mildew. The aging carpet is old and torn in various places. The alarming issue with rodents has been a continuing health hazard issue that must be resolved. In addition, the roof leaks between the Budget Office and Public Defender Office and water and moisture drip through the wall and carpet creating a toxin from mold growth making it unsafe and unhealthy for our employees and customers.

The current office space is very limited, cluttered, and congested. The current cubicle system does not secure the protection for both employees and customers. We also lack sufficient room for proper storage, and as a result we are starting to digitize the current and incoming records and just getting more creative. The urgency to be COVID-19 compliant on social distancing as well as maintaining a healthy and safe workplace environment require the budget office to seek grant funding to fund our necessary upgrades as allocation on local funds for our department is extremely Limited and Insufficient.

Rather, the only other option will be to relocate to another location that is COVID-19 compliant, or space can be modified except adequate funding is critically needed to cover a commercial lease.

1. Materials such as partitions, flooring and ceiling materials and supplies including all amenities necessary to create a safe and healthy work environment. Isolating work spaces by glass dividers to lessen potential from any outbreak. Materials for break room

with better hygiene & sanitation an alternate quarantines room if necessary. Purchases of PPE supplies and other essential equipment & amenities.

2. Develop and institute policy as well as promoting wellness to contain and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in consistent with Public Health and CDC guidelines
3. Upgrades of AC units and other essential amenities to improve ventilation, air quality, and healthy work environment

Total work will consist of full renovation of the budget office from cubicle layout, old flooring and ceiling, doors, walls and window blinds, A/C equipment, PPE COVID 19 material & supplies, equipment and amenities, upgrades employee break room can be a quarantine room whenever it's necessary, storage and printing room, and front waiting area.

Our goal is that we hope the critical renovations for the budget office, such as replacing the carpet flooring, replacing of old and damaged ceiling tiles, installing clear cubicle stalls, A/C system improvements & installation, and floor plan updates will provide for a safer and healthy work environment. The floor plan also calls for partitioning individual spacing or self-quarantine work spaces to achieve social distances. In addition, we will develop a policy plan to promote wellness and mitigate the spread of the COVID -19 consistent with public health and CDC guidance.

#### **A00116I: Department of Administrative Services**

**Funding Amount: \$1,820,000.00**

The Dept. of Administrative Services ARPA grant project is designed to advance the ASG Executive Office Building and DAS Division facilities towards CDC building compliance standards. Improvements are to include public information signs; a public monitor and/or public wi-fi app; stockpiling of PPE personal protection equipment and materials; insect and rodent deterrents; security officer and EOB/DAS personnel training and supplies; public interface partition barriers; HRV/MERV or HEPA filters and UVGI lights for in place air conditioners; structural repair of rooftop and air channels; and, the acquisition of a new central HVAC unit equipped with internal UVGI light filters. These measures will improve awareness and safety of ASG employees and the general public at the American Samoa Executive Office Building and DAS Divisions. Our layered approach plan consists of:

- I. ASG/DAS/EOB public policies enforcement;**
  - II. Physical stockpiles of personal protection equipment and safety supplies;**
- and**
- III. Materials and equipment to mitigate hazardous DAS/EOB locations.**

Key outcome goals are to provide safe working environments and safe public government building services that prevent airborne and surface contact with COVID-19 viruses. Progress has been cautious, however, and no actual usage of award funds was made prior to or during the period of this report. Primary delay factors are our unique geographical economic location; the national development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines; and the 2022-2023 worldwide stabilization and decline of the pandemic. In addition, during 2022-2023, several opportunities developed to reduce or change original project needs. However, some personnel health and availability challenges also developed during this time and slowed recovery.

Our layered approach strategy and goals fosters a strong and equitable recovery from the pandemic's economic downturns. It promotes safer government service environments and new jobs and business commerce. For example, award funds for PPE and Security needs will ensure adequate resources for the health and safety of American Samoa personnel and its public clientele. This in turn helps alleviate community financial resources that were impacted by pandemic unemployment and the higher costs of common imported commodities. Local experiences during 2022-2023 found shortages, inflation or unavailability of many necessary pandemic goods, i.e., masks, 60% sanitizers, effective cleansers, informative public health signage, public monitors, security necessities, etc. In addition, the changing nature of the pandemic affected the quality, quantity and prices of necessary project materials and supplies.

2022-2023 also created a new recognition of other post pandemic needs, i.e., alternative, staggered or remote work hour schedules; long covid awareness adaptation; and post pandemic mental and behavioral health issues. In addition, pandemic responses to increase online access to government services, i.e., websites, forms, contact links and digital archives affected prior DAS revenues obtained from its public services. An awareness and balance of recovery and economics therefore became a funding challenge. In response, some of our grant objectives will therefore need be modified in order to compensate for the economic effects caused by post pandemic situations.

Our grant project otherwise strives to ensure equitable outcomes via several affirmations and project goals, including economic and racial equity, i.e.

- Our public health safety measures serve historically underserved, marginalized, low-income American Samoan residents of all nationalities as well as non-underserved residents.
- The reconstituted Civil Rights statement in our 2<sup>nd</sup> and current 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter grant reports address all known social disparities perceivable, i.e., "Applicant complied with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its changes since 1964, i.e. No denials, subjections, restrictions, treatments, discrimination or impairments were conducted towards anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, orientation or English proficiency."
- Our initial bi-lingual COVID-19 signage/monitor grant objective was modified to recognize a few other American Samoan languages that have become relatively common, i.e., Korean, Tagalog, Fijian and Tongan. This objective is for public space signage installations visible to all American Samoan residents.
- A COVID-19 safety training grant objective for under skilled DAS blue collar maintenance employees seek to provide equitable awareness of COVID-19 hazards and responses.
- The DAS grant project also attempts to incorporate community engagement strategies, i.e. An EOB public monitor or public app objective that provides EOB visitors with current info about COVID-19 safety and opportunities to contact, comment or interact.
- Our Contract objectives will require regular Procurement Dept. public notices that provide information about EOB and/or DAS Division contract opportunities.
- During the height of the pandemic, DAS provided bilingual English-Samoan translations of CDC vaccination recommendations for underserved, marginalized, 2<sup>nd</sup> language, American Samoans on its website that included feedback and contact options.

- Although our infrastructure workforce for EOB central HVAC installation and Uniform EOB COVID-19 Barrier objectives have yet to materialize, the standard labor provisions that promote occupational safety and fair compensation required in all procurement contracts will be incorporated.
- Regular DAS workforce employees also follow standard American Samoa workforce rules.

The American Samoa Audit Office is generally responsible for any evidence-based evaluations of American Samoa Government grant projects. However, at the project level itself, the typical controls are our director's office, the Budget Office, the Treasury or Governor's Office and the Procurement Division. Their records storage areas, filing cabinets and/or online or offline computer databases usually hold any paper trail evidences. A secondary location are American Samoa archives and records management holdings kept at the American Samoa Office of Archives and Records Management center (OARM). American Samoa Code Annotated and Administrative Code laws mandate OARM records management procedures. For the purposes of our grant award, the ARPA office is also presumed to have evidence-based intervention and program evaluations as part of their regular oversight services.

This grant project incorporates performance management and goal tracking as a component of its regular monthly and quarterly reports. Consistent project data recording and tracking extends back to the project application submitted in March 2022. Its goals are therefore regularly accessed, reviewed and communicated and focus on the goal of serving the 300 or more daily EOB employees; 50 or more daily DAS employees and, a daily EOB visitor rate of about 200 people a day. Also, although the purpose and goals of our grant project is not conducive to daily dashboards indicators, it remains aware and responsive to public policies and the need to provide public information about its performance towards grant objectives.

Project: Supplies and Expenses

Funding amount: \$251,546.00

- ARPA-DAS category 5200 objectives were designed to advance the ASG Executive Office Building and DAS Division facilities towards CDC building compliance standards. Category 5200 improvements are to include public information signs; a public monitor and/or public wi-fi app; stockpiling of PPE personal protection equipment and materials; insect and rodent deterrents; security officer and EOB/DAS personnel training and supplies;
- These measures will improve awareness and safety of ASG employees and the general public at the Executive Office Building and DAS Divisions.
- The Dept. of Administrative Services ARPA-DAS grant project is designed to advance the ASG Executive Office Building and DAS Division facilities towards CDC building compliance standards.
- Although no specific SLFRF funds were designated for evidence-based interventions in our particular grant application, its projects are regularly evaluated via standard American Samoa Government policies and monthly or quarterly reports and/or the intervention and evaluation strategies of its ARPA office.



- Key performance indicators for our grant project are the aforementioned monthly and quarterly reports to our directors Office and our quarterly and herewith reports to the ARPA office. And as mentioned previously, the only indicators for our project would be the aforesaid periodic progress reports and an eventual final report that can include a disaggregation of pertinent social factors.
- Pending clarification of Tier 1 status and obligations, a generalized summary of relevant ECs could also be reported for our particular grant, i.e., Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10) and/or other pertinent ECs.

Project: Contractual Services

Funding amount: \$1,568,454.00

Project Overview

- ARPA-DAS 5300 Contract objectives will include public interface partition barriers; HRV/MERV or HEPA filters and UVGI lights for in place air conditioners; structural repair of rooftop and air channels; and, the acquisition of a new central HVAC unit equipped with internal UVGI light filters.
- These measures will improve awareness and safety of ASG employees and the general public at the Executive Office Building and DAS Divisions.
- The project also has potential to advance climate change mitigation via a seawater cooling HVAC system option that was mentioned in our original proposal. A modification of the EOB HVAC objective could therefore advance its initiation here or perhaps via a separate Justice40 project.
- Although no specific SLFRF funds were designated for evidence-based interventions in our particular grant application, its projects are regularly evaluated via standard American Samoa Government policies and monthly or quarterly reports and/or the intervention and evaluation strategies of its ARPA office.
- Key performance indicators for our grant project are the aforementioned monthly and quarterly reports to our directors Office and our quarterly and herewith reports to the ARPA office. And as mentioned previously, the only indicators for our project would be the aforesaid periodic progress reports and an eventual final report that can include a disaggregation of pertinent social factors.  
Pending clarification of Tier 1 status and obligations, a generalized summary of relevant EC’s could also be reported for our particular grant, i.e., Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2. 10) and/or other pertinent ECs.

**A0116: Homeland Security Communications Network Project**

**Department of Homeland Security**

**Funding Amount: \$1,253,000.00**

The Department of Homeland Security intends to solicit the services of a reputable firm with extensive experience in Communication Networks and Land Mobile Radio (LMR) or Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Project 25 Systems Solutions that will ensure a 97% Communications Network & Radio Frequency (RF) Coverage for Tutuila and Manu’a. This installation and transition of the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) will completely overhaul the reliability of the communication networks and the redundant system to the Emergency Operations Center



(EOC) and other first responding agencies to include, the Department of Public Safety, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services, etc.

The LMR build out will comprise of a Digital VHF P25 Conventional Simulcast System will also meet the required system designed for 7 sites, 6 Channel dual-mode P25 and analog conventional to include system network, repeaters, microwave linking, system network Control/Monitoring at strategic communications tower site locations, dispatch control consoles, mobile radios and portable handheld radio equipment.

### **Performance Report**

This project has not been fully implemented and is in the procurement phase.

**ARPA Project Name: PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM COVID-19**

**ID No.:**

**ARPA Funds: \$950,000.00**

<b>1.7</b>	<b>Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)</b>	<b>\$950,000.00</b>
------------	--	---------------------

**1. Improvements and expansion to the current conference meeting area.**

- OSA has reached out to the Department of Public Works for assistance in designing the proposed expansion to our existing conference room and DPW has taken into account our intentions for the renovations and have provided us with a building design that incorporates and meets our intentions.
- To accommodate the need for public hearings regarding communal lands and titles renovations have been made to one of the existing structures at Utulei beach. This will serve as a temporary site for these hearings until construction on OSA’s main building is completed.
  - i. **Delivery**
    1. Through negotiations with the Dept. of Parks and Rec, renovations for the Temporary conference room site will be conducted by the Department of Parks and Rec free of charge.
      - a. **Timeline** – 1 to 4 months
    2. Construction work for the main room will be put out for BID by our local Dept. of Procurement. Constructions should commence once the BID process is completed.
      - a. **Timeline** – 1 to 4 months

**2. Equipment and devices needed for video conferencing.**

- To meet the desired needs of OSA’s administration our IT division has conducted much research regarding product designs that will allow members of the public to participate via video conferencing software from wherever they are located. The proposed equipment and software must be capable of providing crisp and clear video and audio input and output to onsite and offsite participants.
  - i. **Delivery**
    1. OSA intends on following local procurement laws.
      - a. **Timeline** – 1 to 4 months

**3. Funding assistance for personnel to cover IT support and overtime pay.**

- To assist OSA with the design and implementation of the proposed Video and Audio-conferencing equipment and software OSA through the assistance of ARPA funds has secured key technical personnel. OSA has also, through the assistance of ARPA funds, compensated OSA first responder personnel for overtime accrued during the COVID-19 emergency declaration.
  - i. **Delivery**
    1. OSA has followed local Dept. of Human Resources personnel hiring regulations to acquire IT personnel.
      - a. **Timeline** – Till end of fiscal year or award life

2. OSA has followed the US Dept. of Labor overtime regulations and compensatory payments made through the local Dept. of Treasury's Payroll division.

- a. **Timeline** – Complete

#### 4. **Purchase of much needed vehicles.**

- The purchase of 3 new vehicles to improve upon OSA's efforts to provide the public of American Samoa with outreach and workshop programs and the dissemination of information, to attend meetings with staff at their respective villages and districts, plus monitoring programs and the enforcement of mandated public health declarations and village curfews mitigating the further spread of COVID-19.

- i. **Delivery**

1. To procure vehicles OSA intends on following local procurement laws.

- a. **Timeline** – 1 to 2 months

## ARPA Project Name: American Samoa Safe Travels Website Design, Development and Deployment

ARPA FUND AMOUNT: \$7,716,000.00

ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00111-2021; SLFRF-T-A00111A-2022

1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing
-----	--------------------------

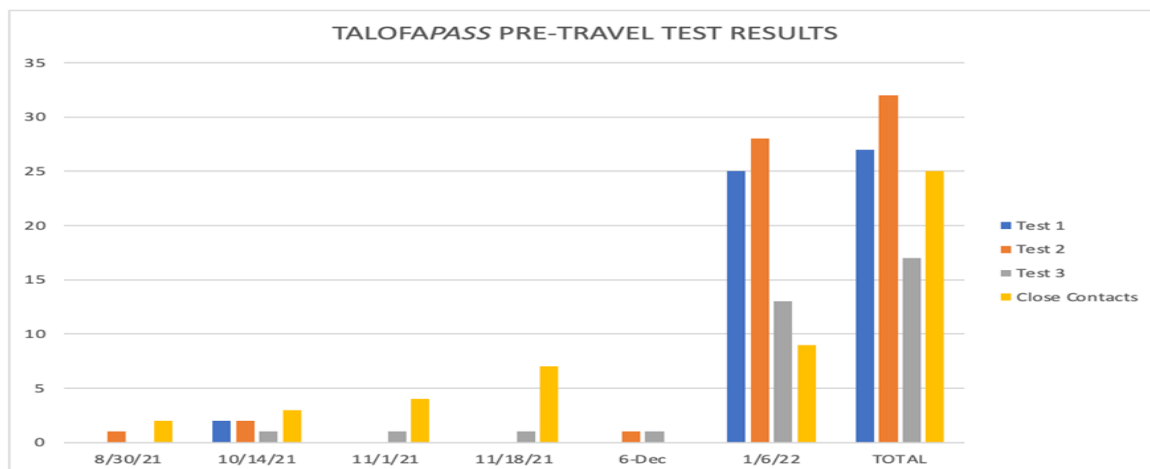
COVID-19 Task Force/Governor Authorized Representative (GAR)

Timeline for implementation: Launched (3-year active contract)

### Safe Travels TALOFAPASS System

On July 22, 2021, a one-way outbound medical charter flight was used as a safe travels assessment and pre-test trial for the 3-Test protocols that was being developed for the next phase after repatriation. This effort was part of the government's planning and designing of the solution to continue flights after July. During this planning phase to resume commercial flights without pre-travel quarantine, careful consideration was given to the testing requirements and quarantine time for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. Two directors and two Hawaii safe travels consultants traveled on one-way inbound flight to test the 3-test protocols with the HI test center and assess the airport COVID testing protocols and arrivals logistic. The final test flight for the TALOFAPASS system arrived safely on August 30, 2021 with 140 passengers.

The system enables the timely and seamless sharing of information and documents between the traveler and government, as well as between government agencies and other partner entities like the airlines and COVID test sites. In addition, the TALOFAPASS has the capability to capture critical data and test results of passengers to assist with informed decision making. According to Figure 1.3 below, 101 positive travelers and close contacts were detected and prevented from entering the Territory as result of the three-test protocol required before departure in Hawaii.



### Program Objectives:

- Set Up of Help Desk Office

- Complete automation of traveling preparation for American Samoa entrance
- Assist in customer queries and provide support for TALOFAPass end-users
- Office Location
  - individuals who in their best interest need assistance with registration for future travel plans
- Personnel
  - Project Manager responsible for managing overall day to day tasks of the Help Desk
  - Finance Officer to fulfill duties in management, development, monitoring, implementation, and maintenance of the Help Desk's financial and procurement function.
  - IT Technician responsible for maintenance and support of network, system, DATA, and VOIP systems
  - Customer Service Representative responsible for assisting customers in area needed of aid
  - Data Processor Supervisor to review and prepare daily traveler-based immigration documentation for the American Samoa Government Technology Office as well as to creating policies that reflect local immigration policy
  - Data Processor will assist the Data Processor Supervisor with all given tasks
- Acquiring Equipment
  - Required supplies to be used by staff to assist in the implementation of ASGTO's overall resilience during any future outbreaks of or similar to a global COVID-19 pandemic.

**PROJECT STATUS:**

Completed 17% of Personnel, 9% of overall budget. Staff has been hired, and are currently serving employment under funding. Total funds spent up to date are as followed: \$78,263.98

**ARPA Project Name: ARPA Oversight Office Administration program**  
**ARPA Funds: \$3,754,000.00**  
**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00100-2021**

<b>7.1</b>	<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,754,000.00</b>
------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------

**American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office**

**Timeline to implementation: Program Launched and Will Continue through 2026**

The ARPA Oversight Office administrative program will support the effective and transparent use of ARPA funds in American Samoa. Having adequate review and oversight for these funds are fundamental to fiscal responsibility and accountability. The ARPA Oversight Office administration program will provide leadership in the American Samoa Government by offering guidance and advice on eligibility determinations for various programs and projects and to work with key community stakeholders to develop a territorial ARPA Recovery Plan that serves all the residents of American Samoa. The ARPA Oversight Office will also be responsible for all SLFRF compliance and reporting requirements.

The amount of funds received by American Samoa through the ARPA SLFRF was unprecedented for the Territory. There was no existing framework to manage grant awards of this size. To address this problem, Governor Lemanu created the ARPA Oversight Office with the intention of maintaining the integrity of each project and program to avoid any non-compliance issues. The biggest challenge in implementation initially was to develop procedures, build the requisite staff, and keep communication ongoing with sub awardees to facilitate project success.

**Vision Statement:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Oversight Office will oversee the implementation, disbursement, and execution of all ARPA funds as prescribed in the American Rescue Plan Act to address the impact to the Territory and its residents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Public Health Emergency.

**Mission Statement:** To ensure full compliance with all statutory requirements for the eligible use of ARPA funds as prescribed in the American Rescue Plan Act. To ensure all ARPA funded projects are implemented with transparency and accountability. To ensure compliance with all public health emergency measures and to protect the people of American Samoa.

**Guiding Principles & Objectives:**

- Adherence to all ARPA statutory requirements
- Improve healthcare access and services for our People and Territory
- Address key eligible infrastructure needs
- Improve negatively impacted economic needs Territory-wide
- Develop sound financial and program oversight procedures
- Ensure transparency and accountability for all ARPA funds

**ARPA Project Name: Public Safety – Keep American Samoa COVID Free**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**ARPA Funds: \$1,907,200.00**  
**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00100-2021**

<b>3.1</b>	<b>Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers</b>	<b>\$1,907,200.00</b>
------------	--	-----------------------

The abrupt surge of covid cases in the Territory prompted the government to immediately elevate the Public Health Emergency declaration to a high-risk Code Red level in order to mitigate the imminent and undetected community spread.

In compliance with the American Samoa Public Health mandates, orders, and requirements to protect and safeguard American Samoa from the spread of Covid-19, Department of Public Safety received an award #SLFRF-C-A00115-2022 in the amount of \$1,907,200 account #A00115.

The key outcome goals for these funds were to increase law enforcement presence at several of DOH quarantine sites, special events, ports of entries, holiday enforcement and provide 24-7 island-wide surveillance and enforcement to ensure the public adhered to the Public Health emergency. Most importantly, to mitigate and prevent the widespread of covid within the Territory.

Additionally, DPS was able to provide a safe and clean quarantine facility for the police force during these uncertain times of the covid spread. Some of DPS’ old buildings not previously utilized were renovated and reformed into quarantine facilities to accommodate the rising number of police officers contracting covid and to prevent them from infecting their families. Ventilation systems such as new AC-units were installed to ensure public health safety for the police officers.

American Samoa is the Southernmost territory of the U.S, remotely located in the South Pacific region. Covid-19 has emphasized the importance of good planning and preparations to protect and safeguard the territory. DPS currently plays an important role in supporting ASG in carrying out and enforcing the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Declarations. There are new CDC and public health requirements, which need the support of DPS to enforce. The new requirements will be ineffective unless the necessary resources and attention are given to enforcement efforts. DPS’ role is, therefore, vital for protecting American Samoa from the spread of the pandemic.

DPS consists of several divisions including the police force, Tafuna Correctional Facilities (TCF), and the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), among others. The main division of DPS is the police force, which is tasked with many responsibilities in enforcing the law and ensuring peace, harmony, and stability in the territory. There is a total of 359 DPS employees protecting American Samoa with a population of close to 50,000 residents. Most DPS employees work around the clock if necessary to cover shifts due to shortage of staff as the Department is overwhelmed with additional duties due to Covid-19 and its negative impacts.



DPS urgently needed ARPA assistance to meet its obligations related to the pandemic by hiring and maintaining personnel. This was critical to effectively carry out its organizational responsibilities, particularly in enforcing laws, orders and mandates related to protecting the community from Covid-19. More personnel were needed to enforce public health orders and mandates at designated quarantine sites, act as escorts for special events related to Covid-19 and/or serve as law enforcers at port of entries and supervise or monitor big island functions and activities. Public safety officers are essential workers because they perform essential and critical duties during the pandemic period. ARPA funds are necessary to support DPS' budget to cover payroll and personnel costs for Covid-19 enforcement recruits.

**American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office**

**Timeline to implementation: Program Launched And Will Continue through 2026**

**ARPA Project Name: American Samoa Vaccination Program (ASVP)**

**ARPA FUND AMOUNT: \$2,665,254.00**

**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00112-2021**

<b>1.1</b>	<b>COVID-19 Vaccination</b>
------------	-----------------------------

**Department of Health, Office of Samoan Affairs, Department of Treasury & Office of the Governor**

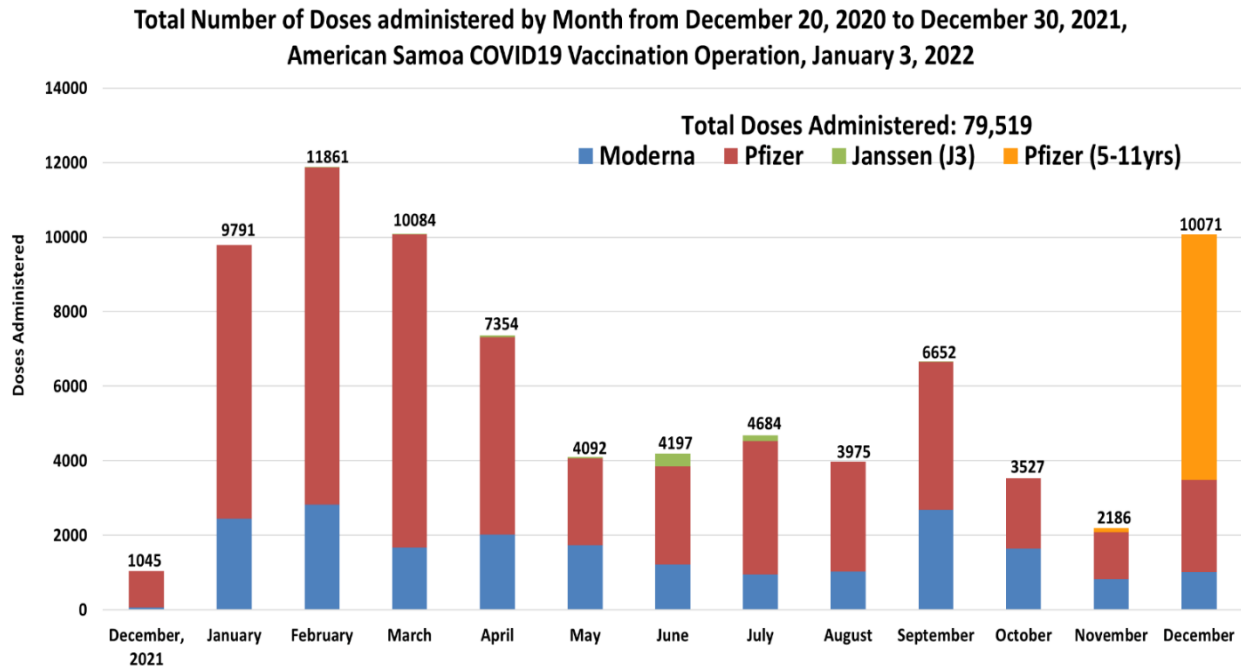
**Timeline for implementation: COMPLETE**



**VACCINATION OUTREACH & INCENTIVES**

American Samoa’s high comorbidity and non-communicable diseases (Hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and others) puts the population at high risk to the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, our limited healthcare services and facilities in the Territory only heightens the risk to the general population. Our cultural and communal societal norms where multi-generations and in many cases multi-families sharing the same living space makes the possibility of community spread of the COVID-19 virus even more risky.

The Territory experienced initial success in the early months with the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccinations as they became readily available for residents. Prioritizing the highest risk population, American Samoa quickly outpaced many States and other Territories in the vaccination rate of its citizens. Unfortunately, the vaccination rates slowed and the American Samoa COVID-19 Task force began to seek ways to incentivize and increase turnout at vaccination sites. Figure 1.4 below highlights the number of doses in the early months of the year and gradual declines in subsequent months.



**Figure 1.4:** Total Number of Doses (Jan 3, 2022)

First, the Department of Health implemented village level vaccination and outreach sites to inform and educate the public on the benefits vaccinations bring to individuals and the community at large. Second, The COVID-19 Taskforce launched a vaccination sweepstakes with prizes and awards for vaccinations. A \$100 incentive was launched in the summer and again as part of the December mass vaccination drive which resulted in one of the most successful months of the year.

The ARPA Vaccination program is a multi-department initiative by the Department of Health, Office of Samoan Affairs, Department of Treasury and the Office of the Governor to implement Territory-wide COVID-19 outreach and vaccination campaign to increase our territorial vaccination rate in order to safely reopen our borders and keep the population of American Samoa safe and free of the deadly COVID-19 virus. America Samoa’s unique cultural and traditional system of governance incorporates our traditional village and matai system. These traditional leaders play a critical role in village life and are instrumental in American Samoa’s response to various emergency events. The support from our traditional leaders were integral to increasing our vaccination rates.

**\$100 Incentives (August)**

Table 2.8 below illustrates the impact of the \$100 incentive program as over 10,000 doses (combination of 1<sup>st</sup>& 2<sup>nd</sup> doses) were administered during the initial \$100 incentive campaign period between August - October. The highest locations were the more populated areas of Tafuna and Pago Pago.

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TOTAL COUNT</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Airport</b>	377	\$37,700	4%
<b>Amouli</b>	147	\$14,700	1%
<b>DYWA Pago</b>	3013	\$301,300	30%
<b>EOB</b>	691	\$69,100	7%
<b>Fagaalu</b>	228	\$22,800	2%
<b>Leone</b>	593	\$59,300	6%
<b>Manua</b>	87	\$8,700	1%
<b>DWYA Tafuna</b>	5046	\$504,600	50%
<b>Total</b>	10182	\$1,018,200	100%

**Table 2.8:** \$100 incentives disbursed

### **School-based Mass Vaccination Drive (December)**

<b>December 2021 School Mass Vaccination Campaign Summary</b>	
Reporting Period:	December 1-31, 2021
Total Disbursed:	\$780,800.00
Total Doses:	7,808

At the close of the program, American Samoa had 84% of the population fully vaccinated with just short of 90% having at least one dose.

**ARPA Project Name: American Samoa Repatriation Program (ASRP)**  
**ARPA FUND AMOUNT: \$16,000,000.00**  
**ID No.: SLFRF-T-A00110-2021**

<b>1.7</b>	<b>Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)</b>
------------	--

**Department of Health, Department of Homeland Security, Medicaid Office & Office of the Governor**

**Timeline for implementation: COMPLETE**

In January 2021, planning began for the repatriation of medical referrals, returning residents, and special skill employees from across the Pacific, Hawaii, and the continental US. Due to the high risk of travelers from the US and low vaccination coverage in American Samoa, the local public health and medical community recommended pre-travel quarantine and quarantine upon arrival as the best course of action to protect the community. Such measures would allow for frequent testing and the prevention of active positives from being imported into the Territory as vaccination efforts were barely getting off the ground. Coordination was critical with key public and private sector leaders and support staff in both American Samoa and Hawaii. The ASG Hawaii office took the lead in coordinating operations with the State of Hawaii. This entailed the hiring of adequate Hawaii quarantine and medical staff and securing suitable accommodations for pre-travel quarantine operations. The COVID-19 Task Force coordinated the planning and execution of local operations and payments. The implementation of two concurrent operations presented many unique challenges.

Such challenges included identifying an accurate account of stranded residents, continued outbound flights with departing residents, and the American Samoa Government taking on the task of coordination of charters amid Coronavirus surges and low vaccination rates. This meant determining priority categories for a slew of individual and traveling families, the collection of payments, ensuring travelers were approved medically to fly, and assisting with the fulfillment of immigration and residency requirements.

### **Commercial Flight Cost Summary**

Table 2.5 (see also Appendix M) below provides a summary of the limited commercial flight schedule including total number of passengers, average costs per flight, and costs per passenger. A significant reduction in costs by nearly half of repatriation phase costs were primarily due to the elimination of charter costs and pre-travel quarantine costs in the state of Hawaii.

<b>Flight</b>	<b>Passengers</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Cost per Passenger</b>
1-Sep-13	260	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 5,138.75
2-Sep-27	232	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 5,758.95
3-Oct-14	278	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 4,806.03
4-Nov-01	262	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 5,099.53
5-Nov-18	282	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 4,737.86
6-Dec-06	253	\$ 1,336,075.67	\$ 5,280.93
15-Dec-21 (Fiji Airways)	89	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 2,696.63
	<b>1655</b>	<b>\$ 8,256,454</b>	

**Table 2.5:** Commercial Flight Schedule

This program continued on from 2021 to March 2022 and because of the COVID-19 community spread it was reprogrammed and redirected toward the new phase stage for enforcement and monitoring for home isolations and quarantines.

The Department of Homeland Security’s emergency hire personnel transitioned into Home Isolation & Quarantine Monitoring for all individuals and families identified by the Director of Health and the Attorney General with Policy Directives and Guidance for compliance until such time the Department of Health has cleared them from Home Isolation & Quarantine Monitoring. This includes all who have tested positive and their residing family members. The team will assist security, data mapping, reconnaissance and providing mass care (food distribution) logistics to partner agencies as necessary.

Decontamination Services:

Since the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the increasing traffic of essential workers and first responders also poses significant risk of transmission. As a recommendation by the Department of Health and the Medical Community, it remains critical to our success the continuing use of decontamination and specialized services within the EOC, Public Safety, LBJTMC, Public Health, and other critical infrastructure during the heightened stage of our public health color-coded matrix.

**Repatriation Flight #7**

On July 9, 2021 the American Samoa Government’s seventh repatriation charter flight arrived with a total of 254 passengers. According to *Table 1.9* (see also Appendix I) below, all associated costs for this charter were approximately **\$1.8 Million** with the total cost per passenger at \$7,144.15.

<b>EXPENSE BY CATEGORY</b>	<b>REPAT 7</b>
HOTEL	\$ 1,094,487
FOOD	\$ 230,849
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 318,920
DECONTAMINATION SERVICES	\$ 15,575
MEDICAL SERVICES	\$ 132,351
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 8,306
RENTAL	\$ 14,126
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ -
LEGAL	\$ -
TALOFA PASS	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,814,614</b>

**Table 1.9:** Expense by Category Repat Flight #7

This program continued to provide support to travelers via the Quarantine and Security Unit who were responsible for designing and implementing safety protocols to prevent/mitigate the spread of COVID-19 once flights became more regular. Their duties in the last quarter of 2022 included the following:

- Airport Operations (Weekly Flights)
- Provided Security Services and presence patrol during ASG Sponsored Programs: Lions Park Dedication, Veteran’s Day Program, TAOA Christmas Program and ASG Christmas Festivities.
- Provided Security to Early Warning Alert Testing on Tutuila Island.  
Provided 24/7 Security to Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The following graph shows the number of passengers on each flight during that timeframe along with the number of people quarantined on each flight. This highlights the effectiveness of the response and implemented policies:

<b>HAL Flight</b>	<b>Total Passengers:</b>	<b>TW</b>	<b>SBS</b>	<b>FOA</b>	<b>Hangar</b>	<b>ACF1</b>	<b>ACF2</b>
3-Oct-22	262	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-Oct-22	282	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-Oct-22	252	0	0	0	0	0	0
13-Oct-22	236	0	0	0	0	0	0
17-Oct-22	274	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-Oct-22	287	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-Oct-22	267	0	0	0	0	0	0
27-Oct-22	244	0	0	0	0	0	0



31-Oct-22	255	0	0	0	0	0	0
3-Nov-22	232	0	0	0	0	0	0
14-Nov-22	260	0	0	0	0	0	0
17-Nov-22	236	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-Nov-22	246	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-Nov-22	233	0	0	0	0	0	0
28-Nov-22	241	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Dec-22	214	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-Dec-22	208	0	0	0	0	0	0
8-Dec-22	237	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-Dec-22	228	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-Dec-22	246	0	0	0	0	0	0
19-Dec-22	240	0	0	0	0	0	0
26-Dec-22	257	0	0	0	0	0	0
29-Dec-22	268	0	0	0	0	0	0