



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

August 2, 2023

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 194 – 23

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Acting Governor of American Samoa

Subject: GAO Draft Report Comments Deadline - August 17, 2023

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recently requested comments to the GAO DRAFT report on how “US Territory experiences could inform future Federal relief.” The GAO plays a vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability in government operations, and we must respond to their findings with diligence and accuracy.

I am seeking the prompt attention and support of all Directors involved in the Covid-19 prevention, response, and relief operations and the administering of Federal COVID-19 funds to review the attached draft report thoroughly and provide the following:

- Provide any additional comments in the report on “WHAT WORKED” (*i.e. leveraging pre-existing programs, technical assistance, funding flexibilities, immediately available funding vs reimbursement*).
- Provide any additional comments NOT covered in the draft re: challenges or “WHAT DIDN'T WORK SO WELL” (*i.e. local legislative requirements/delays, eligibility criteria, etc.*)
- Recommendations NOT covered in the draft on how the Federal Government might better address the above challenges in the event of future disasters.
- If no additional comments are warranted from your respective Departments, Agencies, and Offices, please indicate so.

Please provide your responses by email to Mr. Patrick Reid (patrick.reid@go.as.gov) and Mrs. Lulu Barber (blanche.barber@go.as.gov) not later than **COB Thursday, August 17, 2023**. This will allow ample time for review by the Governor and myself prior to submission to the GAO.

Your insights will assist in the preparation of the Governor’s comments and be beneficial to not only American Samoa but all US Territories in the event of future disasters.

TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
Acting Governor