

# Grantee: American Samoa

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

### July 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2022 Performance

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

### Disasters:

#### Declaration Number

FEMA-4357-AS

### Narratives

#### Disaster Damage:

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

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

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

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

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

#### Recovery Needs:

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

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

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





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

Disaster Relief Food Assistance Program

**Total Applied**

7,359 individuals or 1,937

**Total Approved**

2,325 from 903 households

**Total Benefits Issued**

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

**Value of Benefits**

\$185 / person

**Budget Allocation**

\$70,000 for Administrative Costs

\$430,000 for Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tropical Storm Gita - Individual Assistance

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

5,495 Homes

Registered Individual Assistance (IA)

7,816 Individuals

Approved for Housing Assistance (HA)

3,653 Individuals

Approved for Other Needed Assistance (ONA)

4,900 Individuals

Approved for Small Business Administration (SBA)

682 Residential & Businesses

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

**b) Long Term Recovery Efforts**

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

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



standard and livable conditions.

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

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

## Progress Toward Required Numeric Targets

Requirement	Target	Projected	Actual
<b>Overall Benefit Percentage</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	70.00%	.00%	.00%
B-19-DV-60-0002	70.00%	.00%	.00%
<b>Minimum Non Federal Match</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$ .00	\$ .00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$ .00	\$ .00	\$ .00
<b>Overall Benefit Amount</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$10,770,935.00	\$ .00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$4,550,000.00	\$ .00	\$ .00
<b>Limit on Public Services</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$2,480,850.00	\$ .00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$975,000.00	\$ .00	\$ .00



<b>Limit on Admin/Planning</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$3,307,800.00	\$1,151,950.00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$1,300,000.00	\$ .00	\$ .00
<b>Limit on Admin</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$826,950.00	\$1,151,950.00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$325,000.00	\$ .00	\$ .00
<b>Most Impacted and Distressed</b>			
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$16,539,000.00	\$1,151,950.00	\$ .00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$6,500,000.00	\$ .00	\$ .00

## Overall Progress Narrative:

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-DISASTER RECOVERY & MITIGATION (CDBG-DR & MIT)

The CDBG-DR Program was allotted \$23 million of grant funds to assist American Samoa with the disaster recovery efforts of Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2020. Since then, the CDBG-DR has gone through extensive planning with its stakeholders to identify a project to benefit the most impacted and distressed area from Tropical Cyclone Gita. It was determined that Tualauta District was most impacted by Tropical Cyclone Gita and continues to face challenges with nuance flooding and poor drainage system. It was then identified that the Tualauta Drainage System is a significant hazard action that met all probability measurements and assessments to be addressed to meet the recovery needs of the Tualauta District. During this reporting period, the CDBG-DR program submitted a Substantial Amendment for a public comment period of 30 days and made it available on the doc website: [www.doc.as.gov](http://www.doc.as.gov). The Substantial Amendment received no responses from the community and was then submitted to HUD for a 30-day review. On October 14, DOC received a total grant award of \$23 million to assist with the identified project-The Tualauta Drainage Project. All efforts for the next course of action with Project Design and Environmental assessment are now underway.

The CDBG-Mitigation Program is gearing up to submit its initial Action Plan to HUD. Before submission, the Mitigation Program must host a public meeting before posting the Action Plan for a comment period and another public meeting after posting for public comment. The CDBG Mitigation Program hosted its first public meeting in partnership with one of its key stakeholders Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM). 15 Attendees were present in the pre-posting public meeting, and recordings of this meeting are available on DOC's website for public access. In addition, the Initial Action Plan was posted for a public comment period of 45 days. A post-public hearing is slated for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This Initial Action Plan is a request to make an allotment of \$1.4 million available for any Mitigation efforts following Tropical Cyclone Gita. The CDBG Mitigation Program and its stakeholders have identified the Fagaima Drainage System as the mitigation action to help protect the most impacted sub-area of Tualauta District. The total cost of the Fagaima Drainage System is \$8.5 million, and the CDBG-MIT has committed \$1.4 of its CDBG Mitigation to the completion of the Fagaima Drainage System, which also received \$3.4 million FEMA match funding. At this time, ODAPM and DOC continue to look for a non-refundable local match of \$4 million to complete the Fagaima Drainage System.

One of the challenges to drawdown funds was the transfer of bank accounts to new accounts. When the CDBG-DR bank account was first established, it was currently housed with the American Samoa ANZ bank. The bank's departure canceled the old account; therefore, the staff had to renew its account information to reflect the newly established account under a new ban, Zions Bank. In the next report period, American Samoa CDBG-DR should reflect spending or expenditures.

## Project Summary

Project #, Project Title	This Report	To Date	
	Program Funds Drawdown	Project Funds Budgeted	Program Funds Drawdown



9999, Restricted Balance	\$0.00	\$18,500,000.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$0.00	\$13,280,562.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$0.00	\$5,219,438.00	\$0.00
DR_Admin, DR_Admin	\$0.00	\$1,151,950.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$0.00	\$1,151,950.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DR_Planning, DR_Planning	\$0.00	\$3,387,050.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0001	\$0.00	\$2,106,488.00	\$0.00
B-19-DV-60-0002	\$0.00	\$1,280,562.00	\$0.00

