



2022 OFA Regions IX and X State and Territory TANF Technical Assistance Virtual Meeting: Reorient, Reset, and Rise Guam

A Snapshot of Guam

- The TANF Program is within the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Division of Public Welfare.
- The Eligibility system is integrated or interfaced with other programs. Eligibility staff process all programs (TANF, SNAP, Medicaid and MIP [local health insurance])
- We have a total of 24 Eligibility staff: (12) Eligibility Specialist I, (7) Eligibility Specialist II, (5) Eligibility Specialist Supervisors. We have a total of nine Eligibility Specialist vacancies.
- TANF still implements a 60-month time limit on cash assistance.
- TANF Program has 3 offices: Northern, Central, and Southern parts of the island. Clients can submit applications at any location.
- Once applicant is approved – Referred to the JOBS program for work participation. Must meet Pay for Performance activities before cash is released: 1) Attend JOBS Orientation, 2) Register on-line with American Jobs Center, 3) Submit a work experience contract, and 4) Complete the Initial Assessment with the assigned Social Worker.
- TANF Program offers support services such as transportation and work-related reimbursements, childcare assistance, and opportunities to complete and earn a high school diploma.





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Guam is really energized about:

- Revitalizing the HATSA program which provided educational certification in demanding industries of need. It was a collaboration between the TANF program and a local community college that provided “fast-track” educational programs such as the Certified Nursing Assistant Programs. It provided opportunities for them to see a “brighter future” for themselves and their families. It was proof that there is “hope” in truly becoming self sufficient when the right tools and support are provided.
- Piloting/exploring subsidized employment training program. Majority of our participants are in unpaid work experience programs. They may lack the experience of what it is like to “earn” money and how to plan financially for their families. This program will have a “tiered” level of employment training. Financial literacy will also be incorporated into the program.
- Increasing cash assistance amounts to families. The benefit levels for cash have remained the same for over 20 years regardless if the cost of living continues to increase.
- Implementing other benefit programs such as a “non-recurrent” short-term benefit program.



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Guam, Onward and Upward

- Partnerships with private sector and educational institutions
- Positive relationship with the Local Department of Labor
- Staff who believe in the purpose, mission, and vision for the program
- Participant testimonials are the driving force that give other participants a sense of “hope” that they can succeed. Testimonials can empower others.