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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERA Provides \$29.5M in Rental Aid Assistance *Cycle 6 New Application Period Begins May 01, 2023*

Tamuning, Guam (April 24, 2023) – The Department of Administration's (DOA) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program helps keeps thousands of families still facing challenges from the pandemic in their homes by providing financial assistance to those in need. Since launching in March 2021, the ERA Program has supported over 11,000 households in combined rental and utility relief benefits. The program has provided a total of \$29.5Million island wide in rental aid to help families avoid homelessness due to pandemic related financial hardship, giving many the assurance of housing stability.

“The ERA Program, in combination with other Administration initiatives, has kept thousands of families in their homes and averted what many predicted would be a wave of evictions during the pandemic,” said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. “Today’s announcement reflects a concerted effort to sustain the programs that have demonstrated particular success in deploying rental assistance to families facing urgent need.”

ERA’s Cycle 6 new application period begins Monday, May 01, 2023. The program temporarily paused accepting new applications under Cycle 5 March 01, 2023, for staff to review over 2300 new applications received since October 24, 2022, and process 216 active Continuance of Assistance applications. Combined assistance of rent, rent arrears, utility, and utility arrears is available for a maximum of 18 months incurred from March 13, 2020, to present. Applicants who have not exhausted their 18 months of assistance may be eligible for Continuance of Assistance. ERA urges those who are needing support or continued assistance to apply beginning May 01, 2023.

“Thanks to the strong local implementation of these federal programs, our administration has supported island wide housing stability for over three years,” said Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio. “We will continue to provide housing assistance as we invest in building the affordable housing inventory our families need.”

ERA’s Cycle 5 introduced the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rent (FMR) guidelines for Guam per guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury. These guidelines permit the program to pay up to the FMR when documentation supporting actual rent paid is not available. The HUD FMR information is available on our <http://doa.guam.gov> website as well as ERA eligibility criteria and online applications. Hard copy applications can also be picked up and submitted with supporting documents at the Emergency Rental Assistance Office, 2nd floor Suite 219 in the ITC building in Tamuning, or at the Government of Guam Relief Center located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of Hawaii building in Hagåtña.

For more information, please call the Government of Guam Relief Center at (671) 475-2060 or ERA main office at 671-638-4518 / 4519. You can also email inquiries at ERA@doa.guam.gov.

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