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Office of the Governor
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Department of Commerce Ready to Implement \$3.7 Million in Homeowners Assistance Fund Program

Pago Pago, American Samoa, March 18, 2024 – American Samoa was awarded \$3.7 million in Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) program funds from the US Department of the Treasury. This funding was made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. The American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC) is the administering agency for this federal funding assistance. HAF Program funds will assist eligible households with mortgage and/or utility payments.

Homeowners are deemed eligible for the HAF program if they meet the following requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of the Treasury:

- i. Must own and occupy a home in American Samoa as their primary residence
- ii. Must have experienced a financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 pandemic
- iii. Household's total income must be equal to or less than 150% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for American Samoa

“This funding marks another step forward in our work to ensure that the people of American Samoa are afforded the opportunity and the means to take care of their families”, stated Governor Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga. He continued, “This assistance serves as a critical resource that will support families and strengthen communities.” Honorable Lemanu emphasized the importance of these funds in supporting homeowners facing financial hardships, particularly in the wake of economic challenges.

A schedule of community workshops will be announced for eligible homeowners and anyone interested in applying will be required to sign up with the DOC. A sign-up form will be posted on the DOC website and social media page and available in person at the DOC. These community workshops are mandatory and will be conducted later next month. For additional

information, please contact HAF Coordinator Ms. Tapuitea McMullin or HAF Compliance Officer Ms. Theresamarie Paul.

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