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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
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“Governor Lemanu launches Cash Assistance Programs for Impacted Private Sector Businesses and Workers”

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On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the Governor, Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, announced two Cash Assistance Programs (CAP) for impacted workers and businesses in the private sector. Both programs are funded by the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will cover the period from February 22, 2022, through April 18, 2022.

“Lt. Governor Talauega and I are grateful to our federal partners for the opportunity to provide direct assistance for our local business community and their employees during these difficult times,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “Help is on the way, and this is part of our efforts to be on the path to economic recovery as we navigate through a new norm in our lives, especially operating a business through our first COVID-19 community spread. American Samoa’s current state of public health emergency has highlighted resilience and adaptability among our local private sector, and it is imperative that we provide new opportunities like the CAP to respond to their immediate needs.”

The cash assistance for **impacted workers** will urgently aid in the immediate needs of eligible workers that have been affected by furlough or reduced hours of employment. The program will provide up to \$240.00 per week for qualified workers for the period that they were furloughed due to the Public Health Emergency Declaration on February 22, 2022. The Department of Human Resources will administer the program and provide details for the application process, eligibility criteria, and the distribution plan.

The cash assistance for **impacted businesses** will assist small to medium-sized businesses that, due to the public health emergency declaration, were required to close or reduce hours of operation resulting in a drop in revenue. The program will assist or cover business-related costs like rent, utilities, shipping, and other eligible operational expenses up to \$10,000 worth per business establishment. The Department of Commerce will administer the program and provide details for the application process, eligibility criteria, and the distribution plan.

"I commend ARPA Oversight Office Director Keith, DOC Director Petti, and DHR Director Lynn for your unwavering commitment and leadership in providing aid to our business community. We remain committed to supporting our private sector and being a partner for the territory's wellbeing."

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