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“President Biden Extends 100 Percent Federal Cost Share for FEMA Public Assistance.”

Director Tuatoo commends the support and efforts of the GAR and COVID-19 Taskforce.

Acting Governor Talauega extends his appreciation to President Biden for extending such a critical need during the increase in surges across the nation. As American Samoa prepares to open its borders, the American Samoa Government is committed to utilizing all the resources needed to keep it safe from COVID-19. “Remaining COVID-19 free is the best possible scenario for any state or territory; however, as we make preparations to open up our borders, this will increase the risk that cases will reach our shores. Sooner than later. As a result, all of our emergency first responders and public health officials are looking at how to properly and safely assess, contain, and limit the spread of COVID-19 as soon as it presents itself.” He continued, “Once again, I must encourage all residents of American Samoa who are eligible to receive the vaccination, to go and get vaccinated. You will be doing your part in defending our territory, and you will be saving the lives of those who are not eligible to receive the shots.”

Director Lisa Tuatoo of the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) states, “This extension is a great benefit for all of American Samoa and its people. Fighting COVID-19 is a collaborative effort between government and private sector stakeholders. These funds will be a great help in assisting with vaccination distribution and public assistance. I want to commend the COVID-19 Task Force and GAR for their continued support and efforts in preparing American Samoa to open borders and defend against COVID-19.”

Acting Governor Talauega also commends the efforts of U.S. Congresswoman Uifaatali Coleman, “I also want to commend Honorable Uifaatali Amata in all her efforts in supporting American Samoa as we continue to work towards reopening our borders. The Congresswoman has been working diligently in creating opportunities for American Samoa to receive assistance in building up our local infrastructure, increasing public assistance, and plans for improving our healthcare facilities.”

The cost-share extension funds will be available for the next three months, expiring by December 2021.

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