

Bill No.

An Act to Authorize Grants to Citizens for the Purchase of Emergency Food and Water Treatment Supplies in the Territory of Guam

Section 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Guam Citizen Emergency Preparedness Grant Act of 2027."

Section 2. Findings and Purpose

(a) **Findings.** The Legislature of Guam finds that:

- Guam's geographic isolation as an island territory in the Pacific Ocean makes it vulnerable to natural disasters, such as typhoons, earthquakes, and supply chain disruptions, which could interrupt access to essential food and water.
- The population of Guam is approximately 160,000 residents, and empowering citizens to prepare individually enhances community resilience.
- Based on federal guidelines from agencies like FEMA and the CDC, individuals should maintain at least a 14-day supply of emergency food and water treatment resources to bridge gaps until aid arrives.
- A daily caloric intake of approximately 2,000 calories per person is sufficient to meet nutritional needs across all age groups during emergencies.
- Water treatment supplies, such as purification tablets, filters, or portable systems, are essential for ensuring safe drinking water when supplies are contaminated or unavailable.
- Freeze-dried and non-perishable foods are ideal for personal stockpiles due to their extended shelf life and ease of storage.
- Providing grants directly to citizens encourages personal responsibility and distributed preparedness, reducing strain on government resources, and eliminating procurement delays.
- Published online prices for such supplies provide a transparent basis for determining grant amounts.

(b) **Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is to authorize the establishment of a special fund within the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), allocated by the Legislature, to provide grants directly to Guam citizens for the purchase of emergency food and water treatment supplies sufficient for a 14-day period per household, and to empower the Governor to expedite processes during declared emergencies.

Section 3. Authorization for Citizen Grants

(a) The Government of Guam, through the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), and in partnership with Homeland Security, is authorized to administer a grant program funded by a special fund to provide direct financial assistance to eligible citizens for the purchase of emergency food and water treatment supplies.

(b) Grants shall be issued on a per-household basis, assuming an average household size of 4 persons (based on U.S. Census data for Guam), to cover:

- Emergency food supplies providing 2,000 calories per person per day for 14 days (e.g., freeze-dried meals, non-perishable staples like canned goods, energy bars, and dehydrated proteins).
- Water treatment supplies sufficient to purify at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for 14 days (e.g., purification tablets, filters, or portable desalination kits).

(c) Eligibility: Grants shall be available to all Guam residents who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, with priority for low-income households as defined by federal poverty guidelines. Applications shall be processed through DPHSS, with verification via government-issued ID.

(d) Grant Usage: Funds must be used exclusively for approved supplies from vetted vendors, verified through receipts or vouchers. Approved items include those meeting FEMA-recommended standards for shelf life and nutrition.

Section 4. Special Fund and Budget Allocation

(a) A special fund, known as the "Citizen Emergency Preparedness Fund," shall be established within DPHSS and allocated by the Legislature for the grant program.

(b) The budget for the fund shall be based on published online prices from reputable suppliers, such as Legacy Food Storage, Mountain House, My Patriot Supply, Peak Refuel, Amazon.com for food, and vendors like LifeStraw or Katadyn, etc. for water treatment supplies.

(c) **Simulation and Calculation.** For illustrative purposes, based on current market data (as of March 2026):

- Average cost for emergency food per person: Approximately \$10 per 2,000 calories per day.
 - Per household (4 persons): $4 \times 14 \text{ days} \times \$10 = \$560$.
- Average cost for water treatment supplies per person: Approximately \$5 per day's supply (e.g., tablets at \$0.50 each for 4 gallons, or filters at bulk rates).
 - Per household (4 persons): $4 \times 14 \text{ days} \times \$5 = \$280$.
 - Miscellaneous costs, plus shipping: 300
- Total per household grant: \$1,140.
- Estimated total households: $160,000 \text{ residents} \div 4 = 40,000 \text{ households}$.
- Total estimated budget: $40,000 \text{ households} \times \$840 = \$45,600,000$, to be phased in over multiple fiscal years if necessary.

(d) Funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund, federal grants (e.g., FEMA or CDC preparedness funding), or other sources in the amount necessary, not to exceed \$35,000,000 initially. The fund shall include provisions for annual replenishment based on participation rates.

(e) DPHSS shall conduct annual price surveys from at least three online sources and adjust grant amounts accordingly, reporting to the Legislature for approval.

(f) DPHSS shall actively pursue aforementioned grants and report on quarterly basis to I Lehislatura Guahan for updates on program implementation.

Section 5. Emergency Procurement and Distribution Authority

(a) In the event of a declared state of emergency by the Governor, pursuant to existing Guam law, the Governor is authorized to forego regular administrative processes to expedite grant distribution, including waiving application requirements or providing immediate vouchers for supplies.

(b) Such authority shall be exercised only when necessary to prevent imminent harm to public health and safety, with post-emergency reporting to the Legislature within 30 days detailing expenditures and justifications.

(c) The Legislature shall reserve the authority to expand the program upon it's own discretion, if imminent danger of public riots, due to lack of citizen resources is determined.

Section 6. Administration and Vendor Partnerships

(a) DPHSS shall administer the program, including application processing, fund disbursement (e.g., via checks, electronic transfers, or vouchers), and compliance monitoring.

(b) Potential partnerships for local supply purchases include, but it is not limited to:

- Local retailers and organizations such as Kmart Guam, Pay-Less Supermarkets, or the Guam Chamber of Commerce for bulk purchasing agreements.
- Legacy Food Storage, Mountain House, My Patriot Supply, Peak Refuel, Amazon.com for food, and vendors like LifeStraw or Katadyn, etc. for water treatment supplies, accessible via online orders with shipping to Guam.
- Non-profit partners such as the American Red Cross Guam Chapter or the Salvation Army Guam Corps to assist with distribution and education on supply usage.
- Guam Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (GuVOAD) for community outreach and verification.

(c) DPHSS shall enter into agreements with vendors to ensure supplies meet quality standards and are available at discounted rates for grant recipients.

Section 7. Implementation and Oversight

(a) DPHSS shall develop program guidelines, including application forms and educational materials on emergency preparedness, within 180 days of enactment.

(b) Annual audits shall be conducted by the Office of Public Accountability to ensure proper use of funds, prevent fraud, and evaluate program effectiveness.

Section 8. Sunset Provision

This Act shall expire on March 5, 2031, unless extended by the Legislature. Remaining funds shall revert to the General Fund, and DPHSS shall submit a final report on program outcomes and recommendations.

Section 9. Effective Date

This Act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.