



DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 5, 2023

**Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Available
for Workers and Self-Employed Individuals in Guam Affected by Typhoon Mawar**

Hagåtña, Guam – The Guam Department of Labor (GDOL) is accepting applications for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) as a result of the Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4715-DR-GU) for workers, business owners, and self-employed individuals who lost their jobs or businesses, were unable to commence or reach their jobs or self-employment, or had their work hours reduced or interrupted due to impacts brought about by Typhoon Mawar in Guam.

WHAT IS DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE?

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) (42 U.S.C. § 5177) authorizes the DUA program. The purpose of the program is to provide payment and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed due to lack of work or self-employment as a direct result of a major disaster.

DUA is payable to an eligible unemployed worker or eligible unemployed self-employed individual for all weeks of unemployment which began during a Disaster Assistance Period (DAP) as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be a direct result of the disaster. The DAP for Typhoon Mawar is May 28, 2023 to November 25, 2023.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR DUA?

Individuals who worked or lived in the major disaster area at the time of the disaster and are totally, part-totally, or partially unemployed as a direct result of the disaster may apply for DUA. The following conditions may apply:

- The individual's work hours have been reduced or interrupted as a direct result of the major disaster.
- The individual is unable to reach his/her place of employment or self-employment due to the disaster.
- The individual was scheduled to start or resume work or self-employment and the job no longer exists or the individual is unable to reach the job; this includes, but is not limited to, those in the agricultural and fishing industries.
- The individual became the breadwinner or major support because the head of the household died as a direct result of the disaster; or

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9970 • Tamuning, Guam 96931

Physical Address: 414 West Soledad Avenue • Suite 808, GCIC Building • Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Telephone: (671) 475-7044/7036 • **Facsimile:** (671) 475-6811

American Job Center: (671) 475-7000/1

Website: dol.guam.gov • hireguam.com



americanjobcenter
GUAM

- The individual cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the major disaster.

Individuals who wish to receive DUA benefits must provide proof of identity and demonstrate their status as U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or qualified aliens. This is irrespective of territory law eligibility criteria for regular unemployment benefits. Qualified aliens include:

- Legal permanent resident (“green card” holder)
- An asylee, refugee, or an alien whose deportation is being withheld
- Alien paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Alien granted conditional entry (per law in effect prior to April 1, 1980)
- Cuban/Haitian entrant
- Alien in the U.S. who has been abused, subject to battery or extreme cruelty by a spouse or other family/household member, or has been a victim of a severe form of human trafficking
- Alien whose child(ren) has been abused and alien child(ren) whose parent has been abused who fit certain criteria

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Individuals may apply for DUA if they have had a week(s) of unemployment or self-employment on or after May 28, 2023, which is the date the federal disaster was declared, and continue to be unemployed or self-unemployed as a direct result of Typhoon Mawar. Individuals must file applications for DUA within 30 days from the date of this announcement – **by October 4, 2023.**

HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY

Claimants may apply for DUA either online through hireguam.com or in person at the following location: Paseo Stadium, 1 Paseo Loop, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

DUA is available for eligible unemployed employees, self-employed individuals, farmers and fishermen engaged in business or those who were scheduled to commence employment or self-employment at the time of the disaster. Your eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis for each week you file your claim.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

To receive DUA, individuals must provide all required documentation uploaded to their hireguam account or in-person at the above location within 21 days from the date the claim was filed. Documentation must provide evidence of employment or self-employment or work that was to commence at the time of the disaster. Examples of required documentation include but are not limited to:

- A government issued picture identification (Driver’s license, passport, alien registration card, etc.)
- Social Security Card
- Copies of the most recent Guam income tax form(s), check stubs, and other proof of earnings

- Evidence of self-employment earnings, business license, financial documents such as 2022 Guam income tax forms, profit and loss statement, and proof of business loss due to the disaster.

Individuals must provide proof of identity and citizenship (U.S. citizen, U.S. national or qualified alien) and proof that they are legally authorized to work in Guam. If it is later discovered that an individual is not a qualified alien and/or is not authorized to work due to a false statement made by the individual, any DUA paid will be overpaid. DUA payments are not subject to any waiver provisions and, therefore, any overpayments established must be repaid in full.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Individuals who are determined eligible for DUA must file weekly claim certifications (to demonstrate their continued eligibility) either through hireguam.com or in person at the locations above, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Individuals who file a DUA claim will receive information about their benefit rights and responsibilities. To remain eligible for DUA, individuals must be able to work and be available for work, unless injured as a direct result of the disaster. Continued eligibility is determined on a week-by-week basis.

Individuals who willfully conceal material facts or knowingly making false statement(s) to obtain DUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits fraudulently collected and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

GDOL is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Visit GDOL's website at <https://dol.guam.gov/DUA> for more DUA-related information. For inquiries about DUA, contact the DUA hotline at 671-479-5610 or 671-479-5612 or send an email to dua.hotline@dol.guam.gov.

Applications for DUA must be filed within 30 days from the date of this announcement.

Reemployment services are available at the American Job Center (AJC). Contact the AJC at 671-475-7000/1 or visit hireguam.com for more information.

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