



FEMA

May 12, 2026

Jon M. Calvo
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagatna, GU 96910

Subject: Restricted Drawdown Notification Letter

Dear Chief of Staff Calvo:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 is hereby notifying the Government of Guam that, effective immediately, all federal grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 to the Government of Guam are being placed on restrictive drawdown status. Under this status, agencies must submit supporting documentation to their respective FEMA program offices for review and approval prior to the release of any grant funds.

Background and Rationale

This action is being taken in response to longstanding and significant concerns regarding the management of federal grant funds by the Government of Guam. Specifically:

- Since 2019, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. During this period, Guam substantiated costs for less than 5% of obligated EMPG funding.
- The 2023 Premier Group Audit identified over \$40 million in questioned costs and 11 compliance issues, none of which have been fully resolved to date.
- In 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds.

These issues collectively demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance and insufficient corrective action, necessitating the implementation of additional controls to safeguard federal resources.

Affected Grant Programs

The following FEMA grant programs are subject to the restrictive drawdown status:

Preparedness Grants:

- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Grant Program, CFDA 97.040
- Emergency Management Performance Grants, CFDA 97.042
- Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, CFDA 97.111
- Emergency Operations Centers, CFDA 97.052

Mitigation Grants:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, CFDA 97.047
- Community Assistance Program, State Support Services Element, CFDA 97.023
- Cooperating Technical Partners, CFDA 97.045
- Earthquake Consortium and State Support, CFDA 97.082
- Flood Mitigation Assistance, CFDA 97.029
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CFDA 97.039
- National Dam Safety Program, CFDA 97.041
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, CFDA 97.047

Recovery Grants:

- Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program, CFDA 97.032
- Disaster Case Management Program, CFDA 97.088
- Fire Management Assistance Grants, CFDA 97.046
- Public Assistance, CFDA 97.036

Requirements to Lift Restrictions

The restrictive drawdown status will remain in effect until the following conditions are met:

- All corrective actions and questioned costs from the 2023 Premier Group Audit are fully resolved.
- All areas of noncompliance from FEMA's monitoring are fully resolved.
- Three consecutive years of enhanced monitoring are completed with no findings.
- The Validate as You Go (VAYGo) improper payment error rate is reduced to 1.5% or less over three consecutive testing cycles.

FEMA will provide written confirmation once these requirements have been satisfied and will then consider removing the restrictive drawdown status.

Next Steps and Contact Information

FEMA Region 9 remains committed to supporting the Government of Guam in strengthening its grants management practices. We encourage your teams to work closely with FEMA program staff to address the outstanding issues and to ensure compliance with all federal requirements.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this notification or the steps necessary to lift the restrictions, please contact Tammy Littrell, Acting Grants Management Division Director, at Tammy.Littrell@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fenton
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 9

cc: Lester L. Carlson Jr, Director, Bureau of Budget and Management Research
Ester Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor
Ann Winterman, Regional Counsel, FEMA Region 9
Tammy Littrell, Acting Grants Management Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Joseph Engler, Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Kathryn Lipiecki, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 9
Lorena Willess, FEMA Integration Team, FEMA R9
David Gudinas, Deputy Assistant Administrator, FEMA Office of Grants Administration