



DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

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Hagåtña, Guam — Guam Department of Labor's implementation plan for unemployment assistance during the COVID-19 Pandemic has hit Washington.

"The implementation plan, now accepted by the regional federal labor department, has been forwarded to Washington. This is a major piece USDOL requires. USDOL is also reviewing our budget request for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation," said Labor Director David Dell'Isola.

Additionally, GDOL overcame another hurdle holding up the unemployment benefits process. FPUC provides supplementary assistance of \$600 from early April through the end of July for those that qualify for PUA. In order to get the federal funding for Guam to distribute unemployment checks, a signed agreement for FPUC between Guam Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor was necessary. Because federal lawyers could not come up with an agreement, the USDOL provided Guam with the FPUC addendum contract early Tuesday. The addendum was reviewed, signed and sent back to USDOL Wednesday.

"On a conference call with Washington D.C. and regional labor offices, I made a strong case for Guam, and the urgency to get the funding, and the governor giving us deadlines to get the program out," Dell'Isola said. "It was well received and they promised to expedite the process."

While Guam awaits for USDOL to approve the budget request and the implementation plan, GDOL urges employers to register on hireguam.com and input data on employees affected by COVID-19.

"After the approvals and federal funds are released, we hope to get pandemic benefits into the hands of our people immediately. Ensuring information has been input and verified now, will help speed up the payout process," Dell'Isola said.

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