

Guam Offices of Homeland Security and Civil Defense

Citizen-Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2024



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Vision

Building a resilient Guam through proactive, comprehensive, and equitable homeland security and emergency management preparedness strategies to ensure our community's safety, well-being, and prosperity in the face of any challenge, setting the standard for Pacific readiness.

OHS Mission

Develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive plan to protect Guam and its people from terrorism, invasion, insurrection, rebellion, lawless violence, or the threat thereof.

OCD Mission

Executing all emergency functions to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damages from natural and human-caused disasters.

The Guam Office of Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense was established by Public Law 107-296 on November 25th, 2002.

Major General (GU, Ret.) Esther J. C. Aguigui, pictured on top left, was appointed as Homeland Security Advisor by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero in June 3, 2023.

Charles V. Esteves, pictured on top right, was appointed Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense on July 2, 2015.

OHS-OCD Personnel

Classified	6
Unclassified	21
Total	27

Guam Population

United States®
Census2020
GUAM

	2010	2020
Population	159,358	153,836
Housing Units	50,567	51,555



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Hazard Mitigation

We updated the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the FEMA approved 2024 HMP. Additionally, we were awarded State Management Costs to develop projects under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded \$358K specifically for tsunami hazard mitigation.

Non-Profit Security Grant Program

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack. The intent is to integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. It is also designed to promote coordination and collaboration in emergency preparedness activities among public and private community representatives, as well as state and local government agencies.

Community Outreach

OHS-OCD maintained an active involvement in 40 + outreach initiatives, with the largest being National Preparedness Month and Great Guam Shakeout. These initiatives fostered a culture of readiness among residents, making them better equipped to respond to disasters.

Homeland Security Grant Program

Homeland Security Grant Program, a federal funding mechanism supporting state and territories' efforts to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism and other hazards.

Mariana Regional Fusion Center

The MRFC serves as a central hub for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence related to terrorism, criminal activity, and other threats to public safety. Our mission is to enhance information sharing and collaboration among law enforcement agencies, first responders, and other stakeholders to prevent and mitigate potential threats. This includes providing timely and accurate intelligence to support proactive measures aimed at protecting our communities.

Training & Exercise

OHS-OCD continued its robust training program, conducting 32 training events aimed at enhancing the skills and readiness of our emergency management personnel; Incident Command System (ICS) courses, CERT programs and specialized workshops on cybersecurity and hazardous materials handling.

OHS-OCD participated in 3 exercises:

- Joint US Navy/Gov Guam Radiological Transportation Accident Tabletop Exercise
- Joint US Navy/Gov Guam Radiological Transportation Accident Full Scale Exercise
- National Level Exercise - Cybersecurity

State and Local Cybersecurity

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to SLTT-owned or operated information systems.

Guam Recovery Office (GRO)

The Guam Recovery Office (GRO) oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program and ensures the island community's ability to recover from major disasters or emergencies. We also develop strategies for Guam's long-term recovery from such events and work to mitigate future damages.

Under the Typhoon Mawar declaration, the GRO has successfully secured an additional 236 projects. That's 347% more projects compared to COVID-19. In response to this increased workload, we've expanded our staff to ensure effective management and delivery of recovery services, further enhancing our capacity to address the growing needs of the community.

OHS-OCD Federal Grants Summary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)				
	2024	2023	2022	2021
Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)	997K	1.1M	1.1M	1.05M
Non-Profit security grant program (NSGP)	752K	731K	610K	464K
State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)	805K	1.07M	500K	0
DHS-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)				
Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)	885K	985K	1.12M	995K
EMPG American Rescue Plan Act	0	0	0	280K
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	0	26.2M	1.48M	1.18M
Public Assistance (PA)	2.7M	20.5M		52.10M
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	998K	0	0	238K
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)				
National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	358K	479K	406K	803K
TOTALS	\$7.5M	\$27.4M	\$5.2M	\$57.1M

In 2023, OHS-OCD received a program-specific audit by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a result of this, in 2024, OHS-OCD received an investigative audit by the Office of the Public Accountability (OPA), which can be accessed at the following link, <https://www.opaguam.org/performance-audits/office-public-accountability-has-released-opa-report-no-24-12-guam-homeland>.

The FEMA audit, identified twelve (12) findings Budget to Actual Overages; Time Sheet; General Ledger/Cash Disbursement/Audit Trail; Unsupported Inventory Control; Unsupported Salary Charged to Grants; Insufficient Procurement Procedures; Unsupported or Ineligible Disbursements; Travel Expenses Charged; Inaccurate or Untimely Reporting on FFR; Written Policies and Procedures Non-Compliant with Current Federal Guidance; Unsupported Sub-Recipient Files; Budget Matching.

Corrective actions identified are aggressively being implemented, even as revisions to the Corrective Action Plan are ongoing. Some of the corrective actions include, but are not limited to: Develop and Implement Budget Monitoring Procedures; Develop Timesheet Templates and SOP; Develop SOP for Expenditure Transactions; Establish Internal Controls and Tracking System; SOP for Internal Control; Monthly Compliance and Salary Expenditure Reviews; Develop Procurement SOP; Review and Update Disbursement Policies; Update Policies for Sub-Recipient Monitoring; Establish Grant Monitoring Committee; etc.

Challenges

Challenges Faced

- General fund for homeland security and emergency management operations: Federal grants remain a cornerstone of OHS-OCD's financial strategy, particularly as we adapt to an evolving landscape of threats and challenges. Exploring general fund support from the local government will be crucial.
- Cybersecurity threats remain a critical concern, particularly as cybercriminals and nation-state actors, including those from the Asia-Pacific region, increasingly target critical infrastructure and governmental operations. The geopolitical tensions in this region further exacerbate the risk of cyberattacks, espionage, and other hostile activities that could disrupt essential services and compromise national security.

What to expect

Continued Multi-Agency Exercises:

OHS-OCD, in partnership with government, federal, military and non-governmental agencies, will continue to exercise plans and policies through seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises, games, drills, functional exercises and full-scale exercises.

Continued Community Outreach:

OHS-OCD will continue to provide community outreach throughout the island on subjects to include, but not limited to, hazards such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear attack response and recovery, pandemic, terrorism and active shooter.

Continued Training:

It is a goal of OHS-OCD to ensure all emergency response personnel from the government, federal, military, and non-governmental agencies are adequately trained for all hazards preparedness, response and recovery. This provides the public with a properly organized, equipped, trained and exercised emergency management and response force. OHS/ OCD will continue to work with various training consortiums to continue to offer a plethora of training to all emergency response personnel from the government, federal, military and other stakeholders.