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“Governor Lemanu Commends DOC on Emergency Rental Assistance Program.”

“As long as you meet the requirements of the program, I encourage you to apply. The program will benefit both the landlords and the tenants.”

Governor Lemanu commends the American Samoa Department of Commerce for receiving and managing the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program from the United States Department of the Treasury.

“This is an opportunity for the people of our Territory to receive assistance as we continue to live in these unprecedented times. I want to commend Director Matila and her staff for all their hard work in taking the lead in managing this program. I also want to acknowledge the work of Ms. Janet Yellen and the U.S. The Department of the Treasury for providing this opportunity for the people of American Samoa.”

He continued, “As long as you meet the requirements of the program, I encourage you to apply. The program will benefit both the landlords and the tenants. We need to take advantage of the resources that are available to us, while we have the opportunity to do so. These benefits will not only assist us now, but as we prepare for when we come out of a State of Emergency and we shift to focusing on recovery.”

The ERA’s goal is to provide families with relief from experiences of “disparity” for not being able to pay rent or utilities during the pandemic. The ERA’s mission is to allow at-risk families avoid homelessness or landlords evicting tenants due to no fault of their own. “Keep families in their homes” is the theme for the program, and it defines a home as a person’s permanent primary residence.

Applications will be available online on November 1st. For any further questions, contact the American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC) at Phone: (684) 633-5155 Email: info@doc.as.

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