



TERRITORY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910
U. S. A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 95-24

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 12 of Chapter IV of Public Law 23-45 restrict the use of local funds for public assistance to any person who is not a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the promulgation and implementation of this provision will also serve to dislodge the federal government from their adamant resistance to recognizing the impact of the Compacts of Free Association; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to provide the government of Guam with any funds for reimbursement of expenses associated with the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association; and

WHEREAS, the National Governments of the Freely Associated States (FAS) also have essential responsibilities to provide for the welfare of their citizens, whether they reside in Guam or in their native lands; and

WHEREAS, under the new law, Medicaid payments may be extended to FAS citizens as long as federal funds are available and nutrition programs, infectious disease and immunization programs, Woman's health clinic, Child's health clinic, and Dental Clinic continue to be available; and

WHEREAS, hospitalization and public health are just two of the issues facing the FAS community and there are also disease prevention and mental health concerns that must be addressed as well; and

WHEREAS, with respect to health services specifically, this statutory provision effectively ends the participation of citizens of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia in the Medically Indigent Program aside from possibly ending their participation in the Medicaid program when the federal share of program funding is exhausted; and

WHEREAS, the immediate cancellation of the Medically Indigent Program has the potential to cause severe hardship and adversely effect the immediate health, welfare and safety of not only this segment of our population but the entire population of Guam; and

WHEREAS, a period of up to 120 days is necessary to generate long term solutions to the health care needs of FAS citizens which must include the participation of the United States Federal Government, the National Governments of the Freely Associated States, the Government of Guam, the private sector health care providers, and the resident FAS community; and

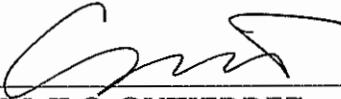
WHEREAS, it is recognized that a solution must be found that will not adversely affect the interests of the taxpayers of Guam and the health care needs of the resident FAS community;



NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act do order:

1. The Medical Assistance Emergency Task Force is created consisting of appointees by the Governor representing the following government agencies and segments of the community:
 - a) Governor's Office;
 - b) Department of Public Health and Social Services;
 - c) Guam Memorial Hospital Authority;
 - d) Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse;
 - e) Guam Health Planning and Development Agency;
 - f) Bureau of Planning;
 - g) Department of Law;
 - h) Guam Medical Society;
 - i) The Guam Legislature;
 - j) The Freely Associated States community; and
 - k) Representatives of the U. S. Federal Government;
2. The Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services shall chair the task force; and
3. The Medical Assistance Emergency Task Force shall characterize the nature and extent of the potential impact of the health, welfare and safety problems and provide strategies and recommendations for short and long-term solutions; and
4. The Medical Assistance Emergency Task Force shall make a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than February 1, 1996.
5. The Medical Assistance Emergency Task Force shall expire upon dissolution by the Governor.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Agana, Guam this 2nd day of November, 1995.


CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:


TED S. NELSON
Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam