

Financial Assistance

Grant Programs & [How to Apply](#)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grants are awarded on an annual basis through an application process. These grants are intended for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an insular government. TAP priorities include but are not limited to projects which foster development of the insular areas in the following areas: accountability; financial management; economic development; education; energy; management control initiatives; disaster assistance; natural and cultural resources; climate change; capacity building; health initiatives; and outdoor youth initiatives. TAP grants may be granted to any of the four U.S. territories and the three freely associated states and is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress.

[Technical Assistance Grant Applications for 2016 now open.](#)

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

This fund is used to promote and develop insular institutions and capabilities that improve the operation and maintenance of island infrastructure. This is the only OIA program that has specific legislative authority to require a matching contribution from the insular government. The MAP grant may be used by any of the four U.S. Territories and the three freely associated states.

BROWN TREE SNAKE CONTROL

The Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Control Program is a combination research and operational program designed to prevent the dispersal of BTS from Guam to other vulnerable geographic areas and to ultimately eradicate existing or newly established BTS populations in U.S. areas. The BTS Program is a cooperative effort involving

primarily the Office of Insular Affairs (financial assistance and grants management); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (overall program coordination); the U.S. Geological Survey (basic and applied research); the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (control, management and applied research); the U.S. Department of Defense (financial assistance, control and management on military facilities); and the Governments of Hawaii, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (restoration of native species on Guam, control, management and prevention). The current focus of this program is on the operational interdiction and control initiatives including suppression and eradication; funds may also be awarded to continue research funding depending upon the availability of funding.

CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

This fund is used to promote sound management and conservation of coral reefs in the insular areas

EMPOWERING INSULAR COMMUNITIES (ENERGY)

Energy security is critical to the insular areas' future economic development and sustainability, thus the Empowering Insular Communities (EIC) grant program plays a crucial role in helping the territories to implement the actions identified in their respective strategic energy plans and action plans. Each year OIA releases a call letter to the territories containing grant application instructions and set criteria for selecting the best submissions. The greatest weight is given to proposals that reduce a territory's dependence on imported fossil fuels, are identified in the territory's strategic energy plan or energy action plan, and propose to expend the funds within 24 months.

AMERICAN SAMOA OPERATIONS

Each year the Office of Insular Affairs provides grant funds to American Samoa for the operation of the local government, including the judiciary. The American Samoa Government (ASG) does not have sufficient local revenues to fund the entire operating costs of its government, thus the purpose of this program is to fund the difference between budget needs and local revenues. The Department of the Interior defines "budget needs" as the cost of maintaining current programs and services. Unless mutually agreed upon by the ASG and the Department, new programs are funded from

local revenues. A secondary objective of this program activity is to promote self-sufficiency. In this regard, the Department's policy is to maintain the operations grant at a constant level, thus requiring American Samoa to absorb the costs of inflation or costs associated with the growing population. Over the years, American Samoa has assumed an increasing percentage of the total costs of government operations. The American Samoa Operations funding provided currently represents approximately 15 percent of ASG's General Fund revenue and 13 percent of the LBJ Hospital's revenue.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING (also known as Covenant grants)

CIP grant funding () addresses a variety of infrastructure needs in the U.S. territories including critical needs such as hospitals, schools and wastewater systems. Improvements to critical infrastructure not only benefit the current population and businesses, but lay the groundwork to attract new investment to the territories thereby promoting economic development and self-sufficiency. CIP funding is subject to annual appropriations and is specifically for capital improvements in any of the four U.S. territories. A unique feature of these grants is that they may be used to meet the local matching requirement for capital improvement grants of other Federal agencies, subject to OIA's approval.

COMPACT IMPACT AID

The Amended Compact of Free Association with the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, under Section 104 (e) of Title One of the Amended Compacts of Free Association, authorizes financial assistance to affected jurisdictions such as Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The goal of this assistance is to provide through 2023, \$30 million in annual grants to affected jurisdictions to aid in defraying costs incurred as a result of increased demands placed on health, educational, social, or public safety services, or to infrastructure related to such services, due to the residence in affected jurisdictions of qualified nonimmigrants from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

COMPACT IMPACT DISCRETIONARY

Discretionary Compact Impact grants supplement the \$30.0 million permanently appropriated for Compact Impact as authorized by Section 104(e) of Title One of the

amended Compacts of Free Association. Beginning in 2012, discretionary Compact Impact funding has been used to offset educational service, infrastructure, job training and other social service costs incurred by Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to the residence of qualified nonimmigrants from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.