

**10 GCA HEALTH AND SAFETY
CH. 17 ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS**

**CHAPTER 17
ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS**

NOTE: P.L. 20-159:2 added Assistance to the Homeless under Chapter 16. Because Chapter 16 is occupied, Compiler renumbered it to Chapter 17.

- § 17101. Definitions.
- § 17102. Administration.
- § 17103. Eligible Activities.
- § 17104. Ineligible Activities.
- § 17105. Non-discrimination Requirements.

§ 17101. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

(a) *Shelter* means any facility with sleeping accommodations and acceptable sanitary facilities, the primary purpose of which to provide temporary shelter to the homeless. This definition encompasses transitional housing and similar arrangements that provide longer term accommodations, so long as the maximum length of stay does not exceed twelve months.

(b) *Department* means the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

(c) *Homeless* means families or individuals who are economically disadvantaged and have no access to shelter.

§ 17102. Administration.

It is the duties and responsibility of the Department to initiate and administer a pilot program for the homeless. The Department shall with its own personnel and facilities:

(a) Conduct an island-wide assessment of the homeless situation. Such survey must include the following: Numbers, ages, ethnicity and gender, the nature and extent of the problems relating to homelessness, the immediate and long term needs of the homeless in Guam;

(b) Survey existing programs that provide to the homeless population;

(c) Establish criteria for eligibility of services under this Chapter, which criteria should include consideration of:

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1. Individuals who because of personal/ domestic and/or financial problems are forced to move out of their place of residence.
2. Newly arrived immigrants to the Guam.
3. Elderly and disabled adults who are not wanted by their families.
4. Persons who temporarily reside with friends or families.
5. Persons in transit on island who do not have living accommodations.
6. Families with children.

(d) Formulate plans and policies with the Agency for Human Resources Development or the Department of Labor for job training and job placement for the homeless in order to enable them to develop and maintain their potential skills and abilities;

(e) Cooperate with civic, businesses and community organizations or groups which provide or sponsor programs and services beneficial to the homeless;

(f) Keep the Governor, the Legislature, the municipal mayors and the general public informed on all major developments and achievements in programs and services for the homeless;

(g) Apply and receive Federal grants or other forms of assistance for the homeless.

§ 17103. Eligible Activities.

Appropriations under this Chapter may be used for:

- (a) Contracting shelter for the homeless;
- (b) Renovation or conversion of government-owned buildings for use as shelters for the homeless;
- (c) Essential services to the homeless, including, but not limited to, services concerned with employment, physical health, mental health, substance abuse, education or food.

§ 17104. Ineligible Activities.

Appropriation under this Chapter may not be used for:

- (a) Acquisition or construction of shelters for the homeless;

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(b) Renovation, rehabilitation, or converting buildings owned by religious organizations or by private entities.

§ 17105. Non-Discrimination Requirements.

Shelter provided under this Chapter may not be denied on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex, or national origin.
