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the positive cases.

"Pacific Rim Constructors Inc. will continue to work closely with DPHSS and adhere to their recommended guidance and recommendations. The health and safety of all our employees is our top priority and we are taking all precautionary measures to prevent any further spread within our company and the community," the company stated.

Pacific Rim was awarded a \$36 million defense contract in September for the construction of utilities and site improvements for main and commercial gates at the future Marine Corps Base in Finegayan, Guam, Post files show.

The contractor also is the builder at the Ironwood Villas, a 138-unit housing development in Toto.

The company didn't state how many are in its workforce and how many are foreign workers.

The company also wasn't available when reached for information on what some of its major projects are.

Last month, two major defense construction contractors were temporarily paused due to COVID-19.

Black Construction disclosed that hundreds of its close to 900 workers, including more than 300 in a workers' housing compound, tested positive for COVID-19. Black Construction volunteered to suspend all of its projects, worth more than \$611 million on Guam, until its workforce regained its health.

In mid-November, Core Tech International reported 140 positive cases following a day of testing 420 employees for COVID-19. Core Tech also paused while its workers were regaining their health.

The mass testing for Black Construction and Core Tech was in conjunction with Public Health.

The Guam Daily Post is affiliated with Core Tech. (**Daily Post Staff**)

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Guam Labor will still have some \$64 million it can tap, out of about \$514 million that the U.S. Department of Labor already made available.

But that does not mean Guam can use any remaining allocated funds or the rest of the \$924 million budget Guam was approved for, if there are no longer PUA and FPUC claims that need to be paid, according to Guam Labor Director David Dell'Isola.

"We can only use what we need to pay eligible claims," Dell'Isola told The Guam Daily Post

PUA payments will still be processed beyond December, as long as the claims were filed by this month, he said.

"I think we're OK with what we still have, about \$64 million for one month," Dell'Isola said on Tuesday.

27,000 individual claims filed

In March, Guam Labor projected some 38,000 workers that could be displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic and used that to request a \$924 million budget.

Dell'Isola said Guam Labor went for the worst-case scenario, to ensure that there will be enough funding available.

As of November, he said, there were only about 27,000 "individual claims filed."

This includes those who were laid off, furloughed or got work hour cuts, as well as those who were previously self-employed and were also impacted.

While some 1,700 employers issued employee separation notices covering some 32,000 employees, not all of the employees actually filed PUA and FPUC claims, according to Dell'Isola.

"I made sure that I'd ask for enough budget for the worst-case scenario, to have enough on hand," he said. "Did I overshoot it? Yes. That's better than undershooting it."

There remain some claims with issues, and Guam Labor continues to address those, he said.

Doubling the efforts

The batching of the latest PUA claims for payments comes a day after the release of the first batch of Lost Wages Assistance worth \$4.7 million for some 4,000 PUA displaced workers.

Workers confirmed as early as Monday afternoon that they already received their PUA, FPUC and LWA direct deposit payments. Others received them on Tuesday.

The LWA is a result of President Donald Trump's order to add a \$300 weekly aid to workers impacted by the pandemic, and states and territories may or may not add \$100 weekly.

While Guam's request for the \$100 weekly waiver remains pending, it's optimistic about its federal approval and already started releasing the \$300 weekly aid using \$45 million it already received.



ASSISTANCE: Staffer Isaac Certeza answers questions on how to schedule a Pandemic Unemployment Assistance appointment at the Department of Labor's satellite location on Oct. 14 at the Dededo Public Library.

David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

Anyone receiving at least \$100 in weekly PUA for weeks ending Aug. 1 to Sept. 5 are eligible to receive the extra \$300.

"Per the governor's instructions, we are doubling our efforts to get out as much unemployment money as possible by Christmas. We will be batching every Tuesday to help our people most in need and giving them the best holiday possible during this pandemic," Dell'Isola said in a separate statement Tuesday.

This includes all of the LWA, and the rest of the PUA clean claims from October and November.

Guam Labor will again batch LWA for thousands of workers.

At the rate claims are being filed and the funds that they require, Dell'Isola said it's likely that Guam will be able to pay all claims using the \$64 million remaining funds.

Unless Congress extends the current PUA program beyond December or comes up with new pandemic unemployment aid, many of Guam's COVID-19-displaced workers will no longer have unemployment aid.

\$25K aid per worker in 5 months

From June to November, the average amount that COVID-19-displaced workers were able to receive was about \$25,000, according to Dell'Isola.

That is a substantial amount in a short period of time, he said.

A number of pandemic-displaced workers found new permanent or temporary jobs, and others are still looking for a new job or waiting for their jobs to return.

As with most of the states still grappling with COVID-19, Guam is looking forward to an extension of pandemic unemployment assistance beyond December or a new program.

Guam remains under the highest level of COVID-19 condition of readiness, but a number of businesses are allowed to operate with some limitations.

Tourism is still at a standstill but the visitor industry is preparing for the possibility of flights and tourists starting to come back in the first quarter of next year.

There have also been some 81,000 fraudulent claims worth about \$700 million that Guam Labor was able to prevent from actually collecting any payment.

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not to file criminal charges.

Guam Animals In Need had offered a reward for the safe recovery of the injured dog. The dog has since been located.

"It's never OK to injure an animal for fun. There's no excuse for the type of callous, shameless violence seen in the Harmon dog shooting video," said Cyrus Luhr, GAIN board president.

"GAIN sincerely thanks GPD for

the prompt arrest of the shooter and cameraman. We've fielded numerous calls and messages from concerned people who live and work in the area. They will be relieved to know that the perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions. We also thank the over two dozen people who provided information leading to this arrest. GAIN will work closely with Guam Crime Stoppers to protect people's identities and share the reward money once a conviction is made."

INVITATION FOR BID**GDOE IFB 003-2021****INVITATION FOR BID FOR HARD COPY
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL (SECONDARY MATH)**

SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:30 AM ChST

Note: It is solely the Bidder's responsibility to review the website on a daily basis for the issuance of Amendments/Clarifications for any possible changes to the IFB.

IFB packages are available for download at on the GDOE website at <https://www.gdoe.net/District/Department/12-Office-of-Supply-Management>

Administered by the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) - Federal Programs Division (FPO) & funded by the U.S. Department of Education Consolidated Grant to the Outlying Areas.

/S/ CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR
For: JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education



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