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*Governor of Guam  
I Maga'Haga Guahan*

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**

*Lt. Governor of Guam  
I Segundo Na Maga'Lahen Guahan*



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **GEDA Secures Second Tranche of \$19.5M SSBCI Funding to Support Guam Small Businesses**

TAMUNING, GUAM — The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) has successfully received the second tranche of funding under the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), totaling approximately \$19.5 million. The release follows GEDA's successful deployment of its initial allocation totaling approximately \$19.0 million and marks another major milestone in Guam's economic development efforts.

Under the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration, Guam was awarded a total of \$58.6 million through SSBCI to support three core programs: the Loan Guarantee Program, Surety Bond Assistance Program, and the Destinu Guåhan Venture Capital Fund. The release of this second tranche ensures continued access to capital for local businesses seeking to expand, create jobs and invest in innovation.

"When we launched SSBCI, our priority was clear: ensure that no viable Guam business is left behind due to lack of capital," said Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. "This second tranche is strong validation of our progress and a signal that Guam's economy is not only recovering but growing stronger. By aligning federal resources with local innovation, we are building a more resilient and opportunity-driven economy."

Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio added, "Access to capital fuels economic growth. This additional funding allows us to sustain momentum across our communities while helping businesses modernize, expand and compete. Beyond financing, these programs are creating quality jobs and strengthening Guam's long-term economic foundation."

SSBCI programs are designed to leverage private sector participation, with a goal of generating \$10 in private lending for every \$1 of federal funding. With this second tranche, GEDA anticipates catalyzing nearly \$200 million in total private credit and investment over the life of the program.

To date, GEDA's SSBCI Loan Guarantee program has supported 46 local businesses by unlocking private financing through partnerships with Bank of Guam, Bank Pacific, Community First, and PFC Finance. By guaranteeing up to 75% of a loan, the program reduces lender risk and expands access to capital. Complementing this effort, the SSBCI Surety Bond Assistance Program recently achieved its first enrollment through First Net Insurance Company, offering guarantees of up to 30% to help small contractors compete for larger contracts.

"Securing this second tranche is a strong vote of confidence from the U.S. Treasury in GEDA's ability to deploy funds effectively," said GEDA CEO/ Administrator Christina Garcia. "We have already seen these programs help businesses access capital, expand operations, and pursue new opportunities. From a mom-and-pop shop securing its first equipment loan to a tech startup

ready to scale globally, this new injection ensures the momentum of Guam’s economic expansion remains uninterrupted.”

A significant portion of SSBCI funding will continue to support the Destinu Guåhan Venture Capital Fund, which enables GEDA in high-growth industries such as technology, agriculture, and manufacturing to help diversify Guam’s economy and innovation. By investing directly in scalable businesses, the funds help attract additional private investment and position Guam as a regional hub innovation.

“GEDA’s strategy goes beyond traditional financing,” said GEDA’s Board Chairwoman Siska Hutapea. “Through Destinu Guåhan Venture Capital Fund, we are investing in innovation and diversification to strengthen Guam’s economic future. This second tranche allows us to expand that vision and support the next generation of transformative businesses.”

Small business owners interested in the SSBCI Loan Guarantee, Surety Bond Assistance, or Venture Capital programs are encouraged to visit [www.investguam.com](http://www.investguam.com) or contact one of the participating partners to begin the application process.

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