



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Household Income & Expenditures Survey (2023)



What is HIES?

The Household Income & Expenditures Survey is a federally funded survey of Guam households conducted every five years to determine changes and challenges in the cost of living. It is one of the most reliable economic tools and is critical for updating the Consumer Price Index, measuring inflation, and determining Guam's Gross Domestic Product.



Why should I participate in the survey?

Your participation is important as a representation of the cost of living in the broader community. The data compiled will be used by policy- and decision-makers for possible adjustments in:

- Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)
- Income eligibility levels for assistance programs, including food stamps
- Wages and benefits offered by employers
- Availability of needed social programs
- Government funding to support education, affordable housing and health services, transportation, and more



Do I have to participate?

If you are contacted as one of the 1,000 randomly pre-selected households, your participation is voluntary although very highly encouraged to ensure that the cost of living in Guam is accurately represented throughout Guam's population.



What does participation involve?

- Completing an approximately one-hour survey at your residence or your mayor's office
- Recording your household expenditures for two weeks
- **Free gas and groceries!** Each household that completes the survey in entirety will receive up to \$55 in gas and/or grocery certificates as incentive.



Will information I provide be confidential?

Guam law requires confidentiality. Survey results are compiled and do not identify individuals or households.



How do I identify a HIES survey worker?

All survey workers will be wearing yellow safety vests with a UOG logo and carrying an official HIES picture ID. They will also have HIES signage visible on their vehicles.



How will I know if my household is selected?

The randomly pre-selected households will be notified by phone or in person at their residence by an enumerator. Residents are encouraged to see if their household has been selected by calling (671) 735-2056, scanning the QR code below, or visiting url.uog.edu/hies-check.

