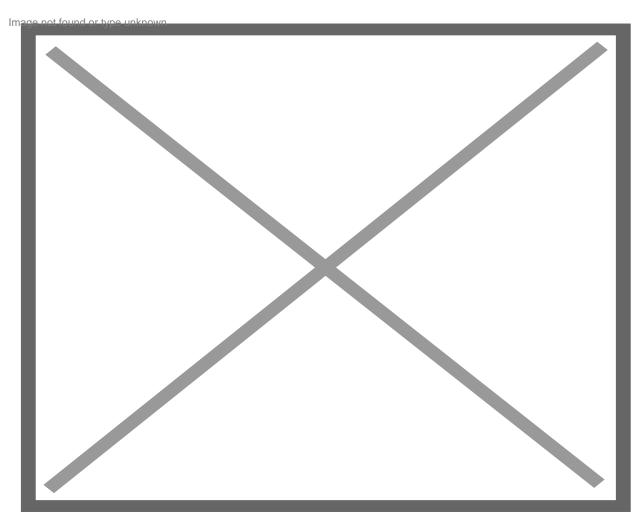
Over 1300 Gov't Employees Have Expressed Interest In Revived GERS Loan Program, CEO Says

As interest soars, GERS prepares to schedule appointments for potential personal loan disbursements

GERS / Published On April 22, 2024 06:28 AM /

Staff Consortium April 22, 2024



Government Employees' Retirement System headquarters in Golden Rock, St. Croix. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM

The Government Employees' Retirement System is now processing at least 1,329 submissions from active government employees <u>indicating interest</u> in obtaining a personal loan, CEO Angel Dawson told the GERS Board of Trustees during their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday.

"Our system has worked well in terms of receiving the expressions of interest," Mr. Dawson said, noting that the process has gone smoothly thus far. With staff currently sorting through the

submissions, he expects that appointment scheduling will begin on or before the April 29 date previously indicated.

GERS has adequate funds available to meet demand, Mr. Dawson noted. If each of the 1329 expressions of interest were ultimately approved, "we would be looking at approximately \$12.6 million in personal loans. So we are still within the \$20 million that has been approved by the board," he said.

The revived limited personal loan program, Mr. Dawson said, was "off to a very good start."

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