



Rural Development • Rural Housing Service • Single Family Housing Repair Program

## Remodel Eliminates Health and Safety Issues for American Samoa Family



Members of the Tuata family in their newly repaired home.

Vailoa Tuata knew her home was in dire need of health and safety repairs. But with her modest social security benefits, at age 74, she was unable to get a loan through a private lender. Turning to Rural Development, along with her son as a co-borrower, the only employed member in the home, she was able to get the assistance she and her family so desperately needed under the Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants Program.

Today, Tuata and her three children and five grandchildren she shares her house with are proud of their home.

With tears in her eyes, she told Rural Development employees Saulelia Wilson-Sualevai, Area 1 specialist, and Legatasia Lauti, Area 1 technician, thank you and said, "Momma's house is nice now."



*These are before pictures of Vailoa Tuata's home she shares with her three children and five grandchildren. She knew her home was in need of repairs to correct multiple health and safety issues. The entire roof and ceiling had to be replaced, portions of the house siding was changed from wood to cement blocks, the flooring was replaced and the kitchen remodeled providing the Tuata's with a safe and healthy living environment for their family.*



Obligation amount: \$7,500 Grant, \$7,488.68 Loan

Date of Obligation: 2015

Congressional District: Representative Radewagen, at large

Demographics: American Samoa: 55,519

Impact: Corrected safety and sanitation issues for a very-low income family unable to receive assistance anywhere else. Replaced roof and ceiling, portions of house siding, floors and remodeled kitchen.