



Carolinian Affairs Office

Office of the Governor



2019 Citizen Centric Report

OVERVIEW

CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE (CAO) was created by mandate of Article III, Section 18 of the CNMI Constitution.

- to advise the governor on matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent within the Commonwealth.
- review the application of government policies and the availability and quality of government services for persons of Carolinian descent
- investigate complaints and conduct public hearings regarding matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent,
- May recommend items for inclusion in the proposed annual budget, review the budget before its submission by the governor to the legislature and recommend amendments to the budget relating to matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent.

- May at any time require information in writing or otherwise with respect to matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent from the officers of any administrative department, office or agency of the Commonwealth.
- CAO is represented as a member of the Governor's Council created under Article VI, Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution.



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MISSION

"to develop programs and provide services to protect, promote and preserve the welfare, culture and traditions of the indigenous Carolinians of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands"

G To empower and promote self-sufficiency and cultural preservation by providing social and economic development opportunities through available technical assistance to eligible individuals. It is the fiduciary duty and role of this office to assist the Governor in overseeing the general welfare of the Carolinian Community, to increase awareness of government functions and preserve the culture of the indigenous Carolinians by promoting cultural programs and activities.

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VISION

"An empowered Carolinian Community thriving, recognizing their indigenous rights as set forth by their culture, the constitution and laws and proudly exhibiting their culture by speaking the language and practicing their customs and traditions"



Reaching Out...



Employment: Preparation or Printing of resumes, recommendations/referral and follow-ups on employment applications.

Documents: Assist in filling out applications for services when needed, preparation of affidavits,

Advocacy: Make appointments and assist in preparing all necessary information and documents required for submission.

Others: Accommodated more than 200 individuals and organizations who reserved the Carolinian Uut Pavilion for meetings, parties and other gatherings.

Collaborations: Staff were assigned to assist in the recovery efforts after Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu from the administrative desk to the distribution of relief goods.

Collaborated with other government agencies and non-government organizations on events and activities catered to the general public, such as the Flame Tree Arts Festival, Marianas March Against Cancer and the Liberation Day Festivities.

Carolinian Affairs Office Bwulasiyol Refaluwasch

For more information call 234-6383-5 or visit our website at www.cnmicao.com

P's of the Carolinian Culture and Traditions

Preserving, Protecting, Promoting and Perpetuating our Carolinian Culture is also a priority here at CAO. The following activities and events were executed by the office or through collaboration and partnership with our educational institutions, government agencies and non government organizations..

The Annual Cultural Heritage Month Celebration
Indigenous Conferences
Sunset Concerts
Educational Outreach
Healing through Arts Activities
Indigenous Expos
Mariana Islands Fishing Festival
Annual Carolinian Cultural Youth Summer Camps

The Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch/Caring for our Carolinian Culture Program (TKR)

Is a program funded by grants from the Administration for Native Americans in part of our efforts to promote, preserve and protect our Refaluwasch Culture. The program is structured around a class environment where instructors teach students classes on Carolinian culture and traditional skills. We have just completed the second year of the program and have surpassed the expectations of our goal as stated in the grant. Classes that are being taught through the programs consist of the following:

Loom making
Mwaar
Basic Usous making
Lighatutuur
Fishing (Identifying Fish, Reading Tide Charts)
Singing
Weaving
Traditional Dancing

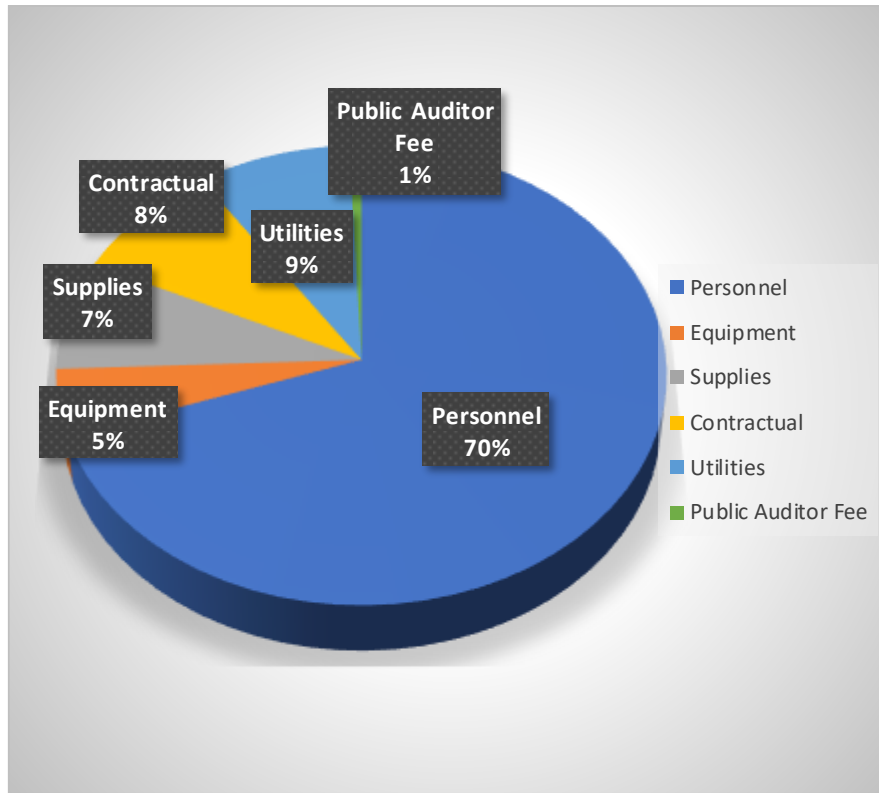
Number of students: 1295
Age Range: 5 to 75

As a result of this, some of the students who have taken the classes are now teaching the classes.

We continue to provide classes and also extend our program to the community as part of our Healing through Arts activities.

2019 Fishing Program





Where the money comes from?

The funding for Fiscal Year 2017 comes from Public Law 19-68, Budget Appropriations Act of 2017 which gave the Carolinian Affairs Office \$308,383.

About seventy percent (70%) of CAO's appropriated budget covers the personnel expenses.

The office has been diligent in their spending due to limited funds and we have been very fortunate to have great partners with non-government organizations come out to help raise funds for activities not covered in the budget.



TKR - Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch / Caring for Our Carolinian Culture Program

The administration for Native Americans (ANA), under the US Department of Health and Human Services, awarded \$441,815 for three years for Carolinian youth development and cultural preservation through the Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) program.

The funding was broken down into 3 phases

FY 2018 - \$180,967.00

FY 2019 - \$127,934.00

FY 2020 - \$131,114.00

In June of 2017, CAO submitted the office's project, "Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch/Caroing for Our Carolinian Culture," to the ANA SEDS program for consideration. The project proposal was aimed at better fostering cultural knowledge and practices for the Carolinian Community.

To date, the program has funded cultural summer programs and classes for our youth and also adults. The program pays for instructors, equipment and supplies needed to run the activities. It also covers the personnel expense of a Project Director and 2 Project Assistants for the duration of the 3 year program.



**Carolinian Affairs Office
Bwulasiyol Refaluwasch**

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3 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CAO has just started the process of creating its 3 Year Comprehensive Plan. Individuals have been identified and will be contacted to be a part of the workgroup that the office is putting together to develop programs and activities that will improve the services delivered to the Carolinian Community and also extend out to those who really need assistance. The welfare, education and preservation and promotion of culture of the Carolinians will be reviewed and discussed.

It is the intent of CAO to expand its operations to serve the Refaluwasch people in the areas of need with regards to welfare, health and education. The understanding of their rights as citizens and NMD's is also a priority for us.

Even with our funding issues, the Carolinian Affairs Office continues its effort to seek other avenues to deliver the services, programs and activities for the Carolinian Community. However, it works both ways, improving communications and the dissemination of information on issues affecting community and the support and participation of the Carolinian community. As we increase the number of participation, we strengthen our justification for increase of funding and most especially the continuity of our programs and activities.



TEPENGI KKOSH REFALUWASCH PROGRAM



As TKR enters its 3rd year into the program, we continue our educational outreach to promote our Carolinian Culture. The main theme for this year is harvesting; harvesting the land and the ocean and putting together what we've harvested and cooking them. We will also be conducting several smaller classes like traditional medicine, rope making, sea salt making, fire making and using coconut milk and coconut syrup, most of which relates to the food and cooking.

The following classes will be scheduled and conducted throughout the year.

Weaving	Coconut Oil making,	Beading
Traditional Fishing,	Subsistence Farming	Traditional Medicine
Rope Making	Lava Lava Making	Sea Salt Making
Soap Making	Fire Making	

By the end of our third year, the TKR Program will designate a display hall to showcase all the end products of the programs and activities held throughout the program. CAO is still in the process of searching for funding source to sustain the program and continue the services and activities it has begun.



Carolinian Affairs Office - Bwulasiyol Refaluwasch

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