

Special Report: Compliance with Citizen-Centric Reporting Requirements

Report No. 20-04
Date: March 13, 2020



The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) presents this special report on government agencies' compliance with Public Law 20-83 on the submission of a Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) 30 days after fiscal-year (FY) end. This law was signed into law on November 19, 2018 and is codified in 1 CMC §2311.

In August 2019, OPA invited government agencies to attend a three-hour training session conducted by the Graduate School USA and funded by the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. The training's goal was to go over the report's purpose and discuss general content. Our records showed an estimated attendance of 110 participants from 70 government agencies.

Submissions

As of January 24, 2020, OPA received 67 CCRs from various government agencies, 47 of which were submitted after the initial deadline. From those 47 agencies that submitted late, 11 agencies are subject to penalty. See Appendix 1 for more details. OPA was not able to determine the total number of agencies that failed to submit a CCR as a certified list was neither stated in the law nor made available to OPA. CCRs are required to be posted on the agency's website and on the websites of the Office of the Governor, the CNMI Legislature, and OPA. All CCRs submitted are readily accessible on OPA's website. Visit our website at www.opacnmi.com to view agency reports.

Clarification Needed in the Law

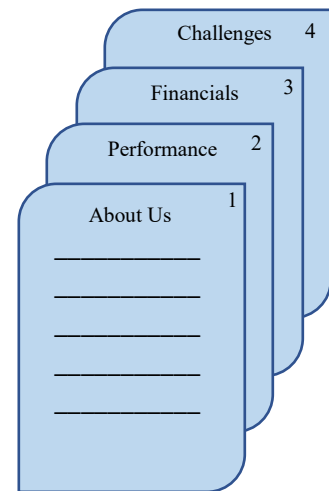
OPA will communicate with the Legislature regarding areas in the law that need clarification. For example, some agencies submitted their reports collectively, inclusive of all divisions, while other agencies submitted separate reports for each division. In another example, some agencies questioned if the law applied to them because (1) the agency did not receive an appropriation by the Legislature; (2) the agency was inactive; and/or (3) the board has yet to meet a quorum.

Agency Concerns

OPA has received concerns from reporting agencies regarding the time allotted to gather and summarize performance and financial data. Some agencies were limited to submitting reports based on FY 2018 data because they were not comfortable with reporting unaudited figures, whereas other agencies were able to submit reports with FY 2019 data after the October 30, 2019 deadline. In addition, some have raised concerns that the agency does not have a website to publish their reports. Furthermore, agencies were concerned with whether they should still be required to file an annual report as required by other statutes due to efficiency purposes.

Agency Submissions	
On-time	20
Late	47*
TOTAL	67

*At least 11 agencies are subject to the late penalty, non-inclusive of non-filers.



What is a Citizen-Centric Report?

A four-page report that was designed by the Association of Government Accountants to simplify communication with citizens using a format that is simple and easy to understand.

When is the Report Due?

Each year on October 30 or
November 29, before penalty*

*First-offense: \$50 per day; Second Offense: \$100 per day

Appendix 1. Agency Submissions

No.	Agency	Submission Date	Posted on Website?	Legend	
				✓	Yes
1	Office of the Public Defender	9/10/2019	✗	✗	No
2	Department of Public Works	10/1/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
3	Marianas Public Land Trust	10/2/2019	✓	✓	Yes
4	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation	10/9/2019	✓	✓	Yes
5	Board of Parole	10/23/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
6	Department of Labor	10/23/2019	✓	✓	Yes
7	Commonwealth Ports Authority	10/28/2019	✓	✓	Yes
8	Office of the Public Auditor	10/28/2019	✓	✓	Yes
9	Department of Community & Cultural Affairs	10/28/2019	✗	✗	No
10	Office of Indigenous Affairs	10/28/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
11	Office of Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation	10/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
12	Commonwealth Development Authority	10/30/2019	✓	✓	Yes
13	Marianas Visitors Authority	10/30/2019	✓	✓	Yes
14	Public School System	10/30/2019	✓	✓	Yes
15	Commonwealth Election Commission	10/30/2019	✗	✗	No
16	Division of Environmental Quality	10/30/2019	✗	✗	No
17	Joeten-Kiyu Library	10/30/2019	✗	✗	No
18	CNMI State Medicaid Agency	10/30/2019	✓	✓	Yes
19	Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs	10/30/2019	Note 1 & 3	Note 1 & 3	Posted on social media.
20	Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse	10/30/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
21	Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation	10/31/2019	✓	✓	Yes
22	Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	10/31/2019	✓	✓	Yes
23	Commonwealth Cannabis Commission	10/31/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
24	Commonwealth Casino Commission	10/31/2019	✓	✓	Yes
25	Department of Corrections	10/31/2019	✗	✗	No
26	Department of Public Lands	10/31/2019	✓	✓	Yes
27	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	10/31/2019	✓	✓	Yes
28	Office of the Attorney General	11/7/2019	✓	✓	Yes
29	Division of Coastal Resources Management	11/7/2019	✓	✓	Yes
30	Office of Management and Budget	11/7/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
31	Hazard Mitigation & Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program	11/7/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
32	Public Assistance Office	11/7/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
33	Mayor of Rota	11/14/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
34	Department of Finance	11/15/2019	✗	✗	No
35	Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance	11/15/2019	✗	✗	No
36	Saipan Zoning Board	11/18/2019	✗	✗	No
37	Civil Service Commission	11/20/2019	✓	✓	Yes
38	Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council	11/21/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
39	Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	11/21/2019	✗	✗	No
40	Department of Public Safety	11/25/2019	✗	✗	No
41	Department of Commerce	11/26/2019	✓	✓	Yes
42	Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority	11/26/2019	✓	✓	Yes
43	Board of Professional Licensing	11/27/2019	✓	✓	Yes
44	Mayor of Saipan	11/29/2019	✗	✗	No
45	Mayor of Tinian	11/29/2019	✗	✗	No
46	Tinian Municipal Council	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
47	Northern Marianas College	11/29/2019	✓	✓	Yes
48	CNMI Lottery Commission	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
49	Department of Lands & Natural Resources	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
50	Medical Referral Services Office	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
51	Office of Planning and Development	11/29/2019	✓	✓	Yes
52	Office of Women's Affairs	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
53	Division of Fish & Wildlife	11/29/2019	✗	✗	No
54	Division of Land Registration & Survey	11/29/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
55	Division of Parks & Recreation	11/29/2019	✗	✗	No
56	Division of Agriculture	11/29/2019	Note 2	Note 2	Non-functional website
57	Mayor of Northern Islands	11/30/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
58	CNMI Scholarship Office	11/30/2019	✓	✓	Yes
59	Rota Municipal Council	12/2/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
60	Office of Carolinian Affairs	12/2/2019	✗	✗	No
61	Office of Youth Affairs	12/2/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
62	Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission	12/2/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
63	Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services	12/4/2019	Note 1 & 3	Note 1 & 3	Posted on social media.
64	Office of Veteran's Affairs	12/6/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
65	State Workforce Development Board	12/17/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
66	Office of the Governor/Office of Administrative Services/Office of Programs and Legislative Review	12/18/2019	Note 1	Note 1	Agency lacks a website.
67	NMI Museum of History & Culture	12/19/2019	✗	✗	No