

FY 2021

# CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1 Who We Are  
Page 2 Our Progress  
Page 3 Our Finances  
Page 4 Looking Ahead

## OUR VISION

"To promote a workforce development system that meet the needs of businesses, job seekers, and workers to support a strong and vibrant economy in the CNMI"

## OUR MISSION

"To Empower, Integrate, Implement, and Innovate the workforce needs of the CNMI"

## WHO WE ARE

In accordance to the federal requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Governor established the CNMI's State Workforce Development Board (SWDB). The SWDB is a formal group of business leaders, workforce representatives, government representatives, and local elected officials. In FY2021, Ms. Josephine Mesta lead the group with her executive committee: Ms. Annie Hayes as the Vice-Chairperson and Polly Dlg Masga, Secretary/Treasurer. The other sitting members include: Bertha Leon Guerrero, Tropical Laundry/MarTech; Velma Palacios, IT&E Director of Network Operations; Nicole Babauta, SBDC Director; Lorraine C. Maui, State Director for Adult Education; Arlene M. Reyes, OVR Director; Vicky Benavente, Secretary of Labor; Senator Karl King-Nabors; and Representative Ralph N. Yumul.

The primary responsibilities of the CNMI's State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) is to assist the Governor in meeting the federal mandates in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This is achieved by identifying the needs of the local job market, overseeing the federal investments of the WIOA Title I Programs administered by the DOL Workforce Investment Agency, and coordinating and aligning workforce development initiatives.



## OUR PROGRESS

Despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, the SWDB maintains their commitment to identify innovative strategies to address the ongoing crisis to support the needs of businesses and jobseekers, to support, grow, and sustain our local economy. In the fiscal year, the board focused their efforts to:

- Develop and adopt policies to align with Federal Guidance's from USDOL ETA
- Identify the workforce challenges by conducting a business needs assessment survey
- Expand the Eligible Training Providers and Programs List
- Strategic planning, coordination, and alignment of the CNMI's core programs.

## PERFORMANCE



WIOA Title I Adult Program	WIOA Title I Youth Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 114 Adult Participants Served</li> <li>• 39.9% Entered Employment in the 2nd Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• 30.0% Entered Employment in the 4th Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• Median Earnings is \$4160</li> <li>• 85.7% Received a Credential</li> <li>• 66.7% Gained a Measurable Skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 59 Youth Participants Served</li> <li>• 39.3% Entered Employment/Education/Training in the 2nd Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• 40.9% Entered Employment/Education/Training in the 4th Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• Median Earnings is \$5,002</li> <li>• 55.6% Received a Credential</li> <li>• 72.3% Gained a Measurable Skill</li> </ul>
WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker (DW)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 68 Adult Participants Served</li> <li>• 40.5% Entered Employment in the 2nd Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• 29.0% Entered Employment in the 4th Quarter After Exit</li> <li>• Median Earnings is \$4,680</li> <li>• 33.3% Received a Credential</li> <li>• 100% Gained a Measurable Skill</li> </ul>	

### Eligible Training Providers and Programs List

In the year, the SWDB certified the following institutions to receive WIOA Title I funds :

- Guam Marianas Training Center
- Island Training Solutions
- Northern Marianas College



The aforementioned institutions offer a wide range of industry recognized certificate and degree programs that includes and is not limited to Allied Health, Business, Hotel & Restaurant Operations, Education, Information Technology, Sales and more.

For a complete listing of the approved programs, you may visit DOL WIA at Bldg. #1353, Mednilla Ave on Capitol Hill or email [cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp](mailto:cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp) or [cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp](mailto:cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp).

At the peak of the pandemic, the Governor's State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) found it necessary to facilitate a survey within the business community to better understand businesses and nonprofits' current and projected employment needs. The CNMI workforce has experienced unanticipated waves of opportunities and calamities due to the external shocks, and for this reason, the CNMI State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) and the CNMI Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Investment Agency (WIA) Division administered the 2021 Business Needs Assessment (BNA) to determine the current and future needs of the CNMI private sector.

Despite the many external impacts, the 2021 BNA responses reflected the general expectations of the SWDB and DOL WIA. Employers continued to report that reliability, work ethics, and motivation to work were the most essential qualities in an employee, ranking higher than educational or work experiences.

With COVID-19, staffing reductions, and the availability of a local workforce, most employers reported at least 80% of their workforce are CNMI-based workers. Employers expressed that their entities needed training, varying from soft skills to technical skills. Employers who responded are planning for expansion over the next five years, with their rate of growth dependent on the resumption of tourism operations.

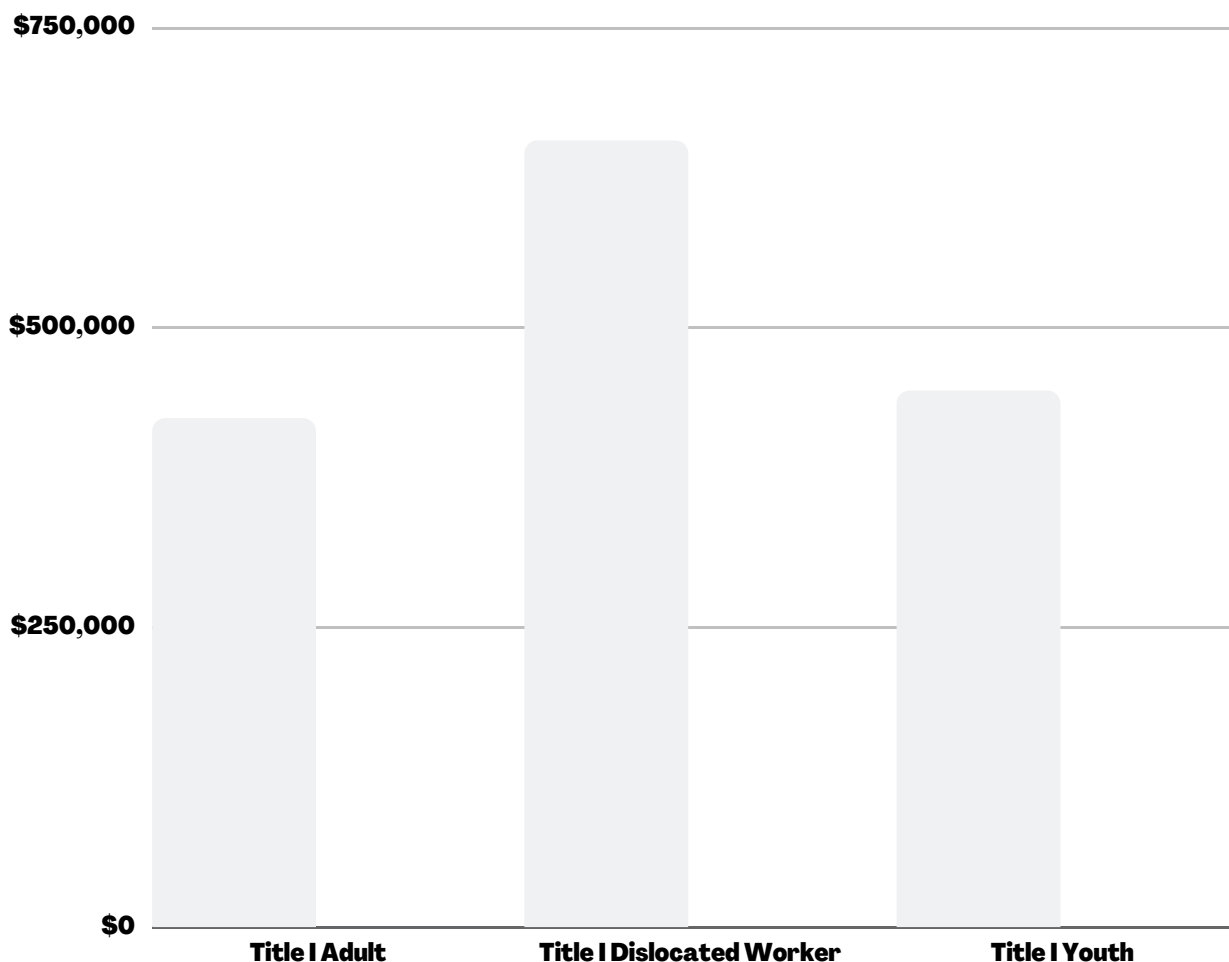
For a full report of the BNA, please visit [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net).

“ *The BNA survey was necessary to identify the needs of the local labor market, and coordinate and align workforce investment initiatives to focus federal investments in training programs that are most in demand as we continue to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in 2020, ~ SWDB Chairwoman Josephine Mesta.* ”



The program and services under the guidance of the the Governor's SWDB administered by the DOL Workforce Investment Agency are fully funded by federal funds from the USDOL Employment Training Administration. WIOA formula grant is awarded yearly. In PY2020/FY2021, the CNMI DOL Workforce Investment Agency was awarded a total of \$1,523,110 to administer and implement the WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. Of the total award, 28% was appropriated for Adult Statewide and Local activities, 29% towards Youth services, and the bulk or 43% for Dislocated Workers. The chart below shows the allocations by dollar amounts.

### PY2020/FY2021 Award



# Our Priorities



Develop and Align Policies that Promote, Sustain, and Grow with the Local Economy

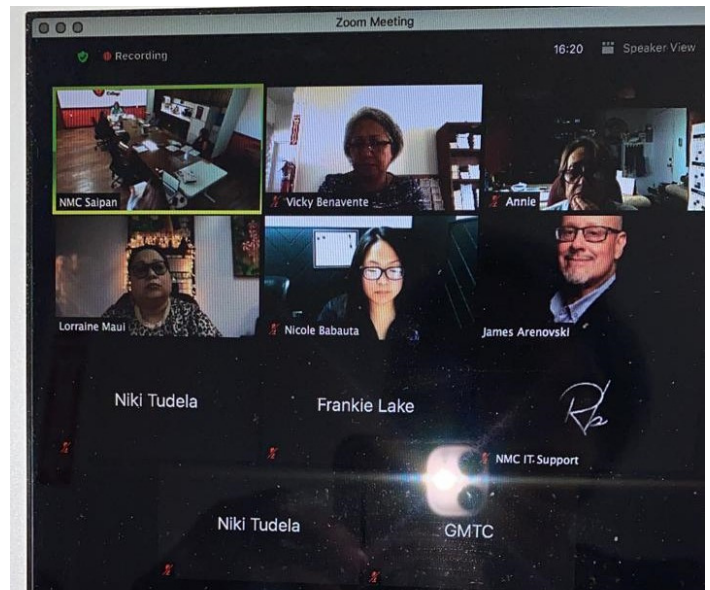


Identify and Develop Career Pathway Opportunities in Demand Driven Industries

Develop, Modify, and Implement a Unified State Plan



Strengthen Partnership and Collaboration with Stakeholders



For additional information or comments on the Governor's State Workforce Development Board, please email [cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp](mailto:cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp).



CNMI Department of Labor  
Workforce Investment Agency  
ATTN: SWDB  
1353 Mednilla Avenue | Capitol Hill  
P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950