

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse

Citizen-Centric Report for FY2022

“Building Partners, Ensuring Resiliency
Across Our Islands”



Governor Ralph DLG Torres, Jerry Tan of Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Office of Grants Management prepare for a tour under the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. The tour focused on visiting tourist sites that are in need of rehabilitation as part of the Destination Transformation. The CNMI Government is preparing these sites in time for future travels from Asian markets. (May 2022).



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Overview of the OGM-SC: Who We And What We Do

In 2009, P.L. 16-48 created the Office of Grants Management, but it was later amended in 2016 under P.L. 19-49 to provide more oversight and responsibilities over federal grant assistance in the CNMI Government. The repurposed office was renamed the CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC). It has the following responsibilities:

- Administer the initiation, coordination and review process of all governmental activities within the government of the CNMI involving federal assistance;
- Ensure that federal grant proposals are in accordance with plans, policies, programs, objectives, and procedures of the government of the CNMI. A stamp of approval shall signify concurrence from the OGM-SC;
- Ensure that proposed government projects for which federal financial assistance is sought are fiscally and environmentally sound and are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws;
- Ensure that the government of the CNMI complies with all applicable federal laws relating to federal financial assistance and that there exists sound tracking, management, and financial accountability for all federal programs awarded to the government of the CNMI;
- Perform cost analysis on all federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, advances, direct federal development or other federal funding for the financial impact on the government of the CNMI’S general fund or special funds used to fund the local matching requirement as prescribed by federal law;
- Conduct activities for the acquisition of federal grants and when possible, coordinate to full extent the activities and objectives of an approved grant award. This office will also have the capacity to award sub-grants.
- Conduct activities directly related to indirect cost associated with federal assistance.

MISSION

The CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC) was established to allow the CNMI government, its elected officials and all agencies to assemble and engage in dialogue with regards to federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, appropriations, advances, direct federal development and other federal funding sources for the CNMI.

The CNMI OGM-SC holds the scope of influence for all federal programs and aid that have a direct and indirect effect on the CNMI as stated in *Public Law 19-49* and in relation to *Presidential Executive Order 12372*.



2022 Youth Affairs Summer Interns at OGM-SC. These students provided school supplies to over 600 students and help develop a grant for a park under the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

Recent Accomplishments: Part 1

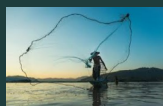
Aside from processing daily federal budgetary allotments, OGM-SC writes and manages many of the grants it receives. Below outlines a listing of grants collaborated with other government agencies, awarded, funded amount, and activities achieved. Furthermore, OGM-SC was tasked to administer the CARES Act Fisheries Assistance Round 2, the Commonwealth Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and Land & Water Conservation Fund.



FY2022: Technical Assistance Program : (\$2,385,622)

Agency	Project Title	Island	Grant Award Amount
GOV	Marianas Resilience and Sustainability Planning Group	CNMI-wide	\$298,081.00
GOV	CNMI Federal Grants Enhancement Program	CNMI-wide	\$180,669.00
CHCC	Upgrade to Public Address System	CNMI-wide	\$157,664.00
CHCC	Inter-Island Tele-Dentistry Program	CNMI-wide	\$69,394.00
CPA	Light Rescue Utility Truck Acquisition	Saipan	\$356,120.00
CPA	Fire System Upgrade at Customs and Border Protection Area	Saipan	\$112,000.00
CUC	Grants Management Coordination Technical Assistance	CNMI-wide	\$152,625.00
CUC	Certified Employee Water & Wastewater Training Program, Level 3 & 4	CNMI-wide	\$140,400.00
DOC	Climate Change and Environmental Literacy Training	CNMI-wide	\$45,348.00
DOF	Revenue Management Information System Part 2	CNMI-wide	\$551,612.00
MOR	Rota Aquaponics Initiative, Part 3	Rota	\$106,763.00
MOR	DFEMS-Rota Emergency Responders Radio Repeater Site Security	Rota	\$214,946.00
TOTAL:			\$2,385,622.00

Round 2 of the CARES Act Fisheries Relief Assistance was administered by OGM-SC again. Over 2400 applications were given out and a total of 1825 applications were received. Only 7 out of 9 commercial fishing businesses will receive assistance amounting cumulatively to \$29,819.93 and a total of 1805 Subsistence fishermen will receive a check for about \$204.17 (estimated). This figure is up 53% from last year's total subsistence fishermen pool. The total allocated to the CNMI was \$411,002, which is about \$600K less than last year's funding availability. About \$8.52 will be returned to the PSMFC due to overage. Checks are expected to arrive early Nov. 2022.



Island	Commercial-Eligible	Commercial-Ineligible	Subsistence-Eligible	Subsistence-Incomplete App	Total Applications
Saipan	2	2	1158	5	1167
Tinian	1	0	346	2	349
Rota	4	0	301	4	309
Total	7	2	1805	11	1825

Breakdown of Funds Distribution	
\$ 411,002.00	CARES ACT Fisheries Grant Award- Round 2
\$ 4,517.00	NOAA Apportionment Fee
\$ 1,861.27	PSMFC Admin Fee
\$ 6,268.43	State Admin Fee
\$ 398,355.30	Balance (After Above Fees)
\$ 29,819.93	Total Amount of Commercial Eligible
\$ 368,535.37	Total Available for Subsistence Fishermen
1,805	Eligible Subsistence Applicants
\$ 204.17	Estimated Subsistence Award (Nov 2022)
\$ 8.52	Difference (PSMFC)

CORAL REEF-NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT AWARDS FY 2022

- ◆ DLNR-ROTA: Coconut Rhino Beetle Program, Year 4 - \$280,351
- ◆ DLNR: Invasive Species Coordination and Entomologist -\$234,498
- ◆ DLNR: Mucuna Pruriens Eradication Project, Year 2—\$130,623



FY2022: Maintenance Assistance Program (\$1,087,740)

- ◆ CNMI PSS: Deferred School Maintenance Project - \$403,146
- ◆ DPW: Acquisition of Tractor & Trailer Flat Bed - \$339,937
- ◆ CUC: Acquisition of Backhoe Loader and Water Pipe Trencher - \$262,600
- ◆ Municipality of Tinian and Agui-guan: Jones Beach Restroom Renovation Project—\$82,057

(Above: Info received from OIA Letter)



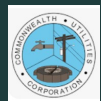
Recent Accomplishments: Part 2

OGM-SC is proud to announce that in FY2022, it garnered \$3,285,120 in Energizing Insular Communities (EIC) program grant funding from the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Last year, OGM-SC received \$2,119,748 in EIC funding. This year, a larger pool of funding was made available as President Joe R. Biden has placed climate change as a top priority for the nation. The premise of the EIC funding is to reduce our carbon footprint and our dependency on fossil fuels through the implementation of renewable energy projects, such as solar photovoltaics. Many of these projects are aligned with the recent revised CNMI Strategic Energy Plan.



FY2022: Energizing Insular Communities Program :

Agency	Project Title	Island	Grant Award Amount
CHCC	176 kW Solar PV Car Park Structure with Design	Saipan	\$1,408,000.00
CUC	1.2 MW Solar PV & Storage Design	Saipan	\$364,800.00
CUC	Renewable Energy Division Mgmt Team	CNMI-wide	\$306,600.00
CUC	Evaluation Study on Monitoring & Control Systems	CNMI-wide	\$285,000.00
GOV	Install Solar PV LED Lighting at Tinian Children's Park	Tinian	\$94,170.00
GOV	Install Solar PV Light Systems on Saipan Coastal Pavilions	Saipan	\$164,250.00
GOV	Install Solar PV Light Systems on Rota Coastal Pavilions	Rota	\$129,500.00
GOV	Energy Task Force- Renewables Technical Development Program	CNMI-wide	\$532,800.00
TOTAL:			\$3,285,120.00



36 kW Solar Photovoltaic System for Rota Aquaponics Underway



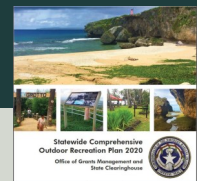
The Office of the Mayor for the Municipality of Rota held the groundbreaking ceremony for the installation of the Rota Aquaponics Solar Photovoltaic System at the Rota Aquaponic Education and Training Facility in Sinapalo, Rota last Friday, July 22, 2022.

Funded by a grant from the DOI Office of Insular Affairs' Energizing Insular Communities, the \$153,000 solar energy system project has the capacity to power the current facility's electrical load plus its expansion phases, especially as plans are underway to add additional fish ponds, planting beds and additional office units to support other agricultural-related programs under DLNR and the municipality with the end goal of sustainability.

The system is estimated to generate 36 Kilowatts of direct current power, which is able to handle about 52,000 kilowatt hours annually. This translates to a savings of about \$27,000 annually, and \$675,000 over the life-span of the solar energy system at 25 years. The solar energy system project is scheduled to be completed within the 138-day time frame and will be integrated with the net metering system. This grid-tied system will be able to accommodate the entire load of the facility during the day and all other excess energy generated will be exported back to the electrical grid, crediting the aquaponics facility. The system will be installed under contract with Micronesia Renewable Energy Inc.



Recent Accomplishments: Part 3



FY2022: Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

The United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service has announced \$1,901,200.00 in Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance funding to benefit the preservation and development of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The assistance granted to benefit the CNMI is as follows –

\$900,000.00 – PakPak Beach Recreational Park (Saipan). The PakPak Beach Recreational Park will feature various outdoor recreational alternatives on site – a large central pavilion along with three outlying pavilions to serve as picnic or general gathering areas; outdoor picnic areas with grill stations; an all-inclusive playground system that is accessible to all ages and abilities; a parking lot and walkways that are ADA compliant; and outdoor beach shower stations. Solar PV systems will be installed to the pavilions for lighting.



\$645,600.00 – Koblerville Recreational Park (Saipan). Nestled between Chalan Msgr. Martinez and Koblerville Road (near Tottotville entrance), the construction of a recreational park will provide a play and exercise area for children of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and abilities and create the opportunity for the community to promote an overall healthier and happier lifestyle.

\$177,800.00 – As Matmos Park (Rota). The intent of the As Matmos Park project proposal is to improve the functionality of the popular fishing site and make it more purposeful to those who utilize the recreational area.



\$177,800.00 – Pona Point Park (Rota). The project aims to construct a pavilion to serve as picnic or general gathering areas for those utilizing the park area, as well as, outdoor picnic areas with grill stations. Solar PV systems will be installed to the pavilions for lighting.



The Commonwealth Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance (CCERA) Program has two offices, one in Chalan Kanoa and at the Marianas Business Plaza. Over the past year, the program has seen over 2500 households receive much needed rental and utilities assistance. The average disbursements to landlords is typically for a four-month bulk payment. The Program is currently working on ensuring that all households receive a minimum of 12 months of rental assistance. As funds continue to deplete, management and staff are working diligently to assist families, particularly within the 30-50% area median income levels. With tranche 2 of ERA 2 coming in September 2022, more households were able to receive assistance. There is also a strong possibility of receiving ERA 2 tranche 3 funds but this is dependent on exhausting remaining funds at the grantor percentage levels. Call CCERA at 682-RENT (CK) or 288-2237 (MBP).

FY2021

Award Type	Funding Level	Expended	Balance
ERA 1 Benefits	\$ 9,360,602.00	\$ 3,961,482.00	\$ 5,399,120.00
ERA 1 Admin	\$ 1,040,067.00	\$ 429,937.00	\$ 610,130.00
ERA 2 Benefits	\$ 3,227,536.00	\$ 248,108.00	\$ 2,979,428.00
ERA 2 Admin	\$ 358,615.00	\$ 91,389.00	\$ 267,226.00
TOTAL:	\$ 13,986,820.00	\$ 4,730,916.00	\$ 9,255,904.00

FY2022

Award Type	Funding Level	Adjustments	Expended	Balance
ERA 1 Benefits (Mar '21)	\$ 9,360,602.00	\$ 294,534.97	\$ 9,655,136.97	\$ -
ERA 1 Admin (Mar '21)	\$ 1,040,067.00	\$ (294,534.97)	\$ 745,532.03	\$ -
ERA 2 Benefits (Aug '21)	\$ 3,227,536.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,227,483.66	\$ 52.34
ERA 2 Admin (Aug '21)	\$ 358,615.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 302,140.74	\$ 56,474.26
ERA 2 Tranche 2 (Sept 22)	\$ 2,689,613.07	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,754,689.57	\$ 934,923.50
TOTAL:	\$ 16,676,433.07	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,684,982.97	\$ 991,450.10

Between fiscal years 2016 and 2019, the OGM-SC was funded both by CNMI Local Budget Appropriations and Section 5 of PL 19-49 of the Grants Management enabling legislation. For FY2020 to FY2022, the CNMI Legislature budgeted \$1.00 for personnel and all others, thus leaving the OGM-SC completely funded by federal reimbursements through indirect costs. This makes the OGM-SC one of only few offices in the CNMI Government to be completely self-sufficient or non-locally funded.

In the past, OGM-SC relied on the additional support from local appropriations to carry much needed personnel, while indirect funds were used as matching shares for large construction projects and subgrants. Now without this support, OGM-SC may have a difficult time securing large-scale projects that could benefit the community. Furthermore, with the limited and reduced revenue stream, it will impact the office's ability to subgrant much need funds to government agencies and community projects, such as for healthcare equipment, unmet needs from the disaster and Covid-19, and public safety needs.

Furthermore, it was realized at the end of fiscal years 2020 to 2022 that with the Covid-19 pandemic, many federally funded activities were not executed or undertaken, driving the IDC collections down. This has impacted OGM-SC's ability to handle more community projects and subgrants. It also prevented our office from hiring additional needed staffing to address many new grant initiatives under the administration. Presently, OGM-SC is using primarily ARPA funds to fund partially its projects while we understand we gain better insight to the new FMIS and our IDC reimbursements.

Local Budget

Fiscal Year	#FTE	Personnel	% of Total	Operations	% of Total	Total Budget
FY18 (PL20-11)	10	\$236,748	89.70%	\$27,258	10.30%	\$264,006.00
FY19 (PL20-67)	10	\$228,020	99.00%	\$2,281	1.00%	\$230,301.00
FY20 (PL21-08)	8	\$1.00	100.00%	\$0.00	0.00%	\$1.00
FY21 (PL21-35)	0	\$0.00	0.00%	\$1.00	100.00%	\$1.00
FY22 (PL22-08)	0	\$0.00	0.00%	\$1.00	100.00%	\$1.00



Under PL19-49 Section 5, OGM-SC will receive starting 40% of total IDC collected and it will decrease 1% each FY thereafter until it reaches 35%. Subsequently, it is authorized to subgrant 20% of the total IDC. However, due to urgent community needs, the OGM-SC has exceeded its 20% subgranting total. For FY2022 OGM-SC subgranted \$32,894.21. Access to our subgrants funding was difficult this year because of a new FMIS. Below, please find a 2022 listing of IDC-funded projects:

CNMI PROJECT BUDGET REPORT

FOR 10/01/2021 - 09/30/2022

T PROJECT STRING	Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Remaining
PROJECT: 2610210023 - OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT				
E2610210023-OPERATING -	34,260.20	59,412.54	1,415.91	-26,568.25
E2610210023-PERSONNEL -	324,347.96	349,458.09	0.00	-25,110.13
TOTALS for PROJECT: 2610210023 - OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT	358,608.16	408,870.63	1,415.91	-51,678.38
TOTALS FOR EXPENSE STRINGS				
	358,608.16	408,870.63	1,415.91	-51,678.38
TOTALS				
	358,608.16	408,870.63	1,415.91	-51,678.38

CNMI PROJECT BUDGET REPORT

FOR 10/01/2021 - 09/30/2022

T PROJECT STRING	Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Remaining
PROJECT: 2610210001 - OGM - ARPA PROJECTS				
E2610210001-OPERATING -3PROFSRVS -	-9,850.00	60,069.47	65,114.53	-135,034.00
E2610210001-OPERATING -4ADMINFEES-	-68,568.29	750.00	279.85	-69,598.14
E2610210001-OPERATING -5SUPPLIES -	-10,168.50	174,210.94	44,929.57	-229,309.01
E2610210001-OPERATING -9OTHER -	1,211,413.00	423,348.17	229,669.77	558,395.06
TOTALS for PROJECT: 2610210001 - OGM - ARPA PROJECTS	1,122,826.21	658,378.58	339,993.72	124,453.91
TOTALS FOR EXPENSE STRINGS				
	1,122,826.21	658,378.58	339,993.72	124,453.91
TOTALS				
	1,122,826.21	658,378.58	339,993.72	124,453.91

IDC Subgrants

- ◆ Tinian Municipality/Pika Festival—\$15,000.00
- ◆ Tinian Municipal Council/Computers—\$7,560
- ◆ Rota Municipality/Bushcutters/Ops—\$10,334.21

TOTAL: \$32,894.21



Future Outlook: Our Challenges and Priorities

FORESEEN CHALLENGES:

- ◆ **Post ARPA.** The CNMI has been blessed to receive over \$500M in American Rescue Plan Act funds and although we still have some funds available, it will not forever. As a government, we need to be prepared to find more sources of federal funding because our tourism sector might not rebound as strong as in the past; Covid-19 effects are still suppressing travel worldwide. For these reasons, we need a more robust system to getting more grants into the CNMI. We need more grant writers and more innovative revenue generating bills.
- ◆ **Labor Shortage.** The OGM-SC has current construction projects in the pipeline and it fears that with CW issues, the CNMI will not have the labor pool to start or complete its construction projects. Keep in mind that with the Disaster Recovery Funding already approved, \$243M worth of projects, will start a frenzy of projects with little to no manpower available to execute these construction projects. There are still FEMA and PA projects that haven't started, including many Economic Development Administration projects.
- ◆ **Capacity.** The OGM-SC has currently 9 staff members on board. We need additional grant writers to submit quality proposals, especially with CDBG-DR, EDA, BIL, & IRA funding available. We cannot afford to lose these opportunities. to receive additional funding, especially during austerity and a health pandemic. More technical staffing will be needed in the immediate future to implement and manage many of the federal funds coming to the CNMI. The Inflation Reduction Act is poised to award the CNMI about \$40-44M in Energy projects late 2022 to early 2023. We need to build capacity soon!

A. Increase Access to Information

Over the years of OGM-SC's existence, we have created a lot of projects that produce documents and studies that many find resourceful and important for the advancement of other future projects, such as in energy or environmental projects. Many of our projects concern the latest technology trends, other federal funding sources, rental information, or even household goods (distribution). With this, OGM-SC will make it a priority to increase access to stored and new information by having a more active webpage and other social media outlets.

23 Priorities



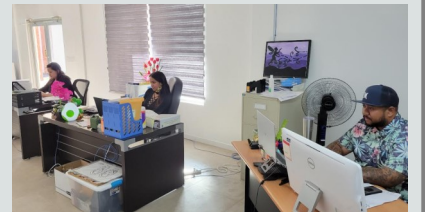
B. Inter-Agency Collaboration

In order for future grant proposals to be successful, inter-agency collaboration is necessary. OGM-SC would like to reach out to more agencies and learn their grant needs. By doing so, we can collectively build a stronger CNMI. Sustainability starts with good planning and better working relationships. Open communication and overlapping integration of resources is possible if the projects are multi-structured and cross integrated. We need to hear your story and needs!



C. Fiscal Management

Stabilizing our fiscal resources as a whole is crucial. OGM-SC believes that by getting more federal grants into the CNMI, it will help support components of the government while our main industry sectors recover especially after disasters and Covid-19. Achieving a clean single audit is also a priority, especially as consistent findings reoccur annually. Its compliance is detrimental to receiving more federal dollars. With this, OIA has provided OGM-SC and the Department of Finance with federal funding to track and monitor disaster related expenditure and to build transparency using an online platform. Visit: www.cnmidr.gov.mp for more info.



D. Raising the Bar through TRAINING

It shall be OGM-SC's priority to provide much needed training to all CNMI grant managers and those aspiring to learn more about grants and its management of federal awards. OGM-SC is working on a training program with a certified US Grants Program that aims at building local capacity. It is the hope that new recruits and current managers will gain the experience necessary to run their grant programs smoothly and to eventually get more federal money into the CNMI.



Got Ideas/Solutions?



CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse

OGM-SC values your input, suggestions, and recommendations in making a more resilient CNMI. Talk to us. Your idea(s) just might be our next grant proposal and project.

Contact us: Tel: (670)237-2220/1 • Email: cnmigov.ogm@gmail.com • [@cnmiogm](https://www.facebook.com/cnmiogm) [@cnmiogm](https://www.instagram.com/cnmiogm) [@cnmiogm](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cnmiogm)



The OGM-SC values the community's inputs, suggestions, and recommendations. If you would like to see other information included in this report, please contact our main office at (670) 664-9994/5-7 or by email at cnmigov.ogm@gmail.com or write to Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, Chalan Kanoa, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.