



CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE.

20 22



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO BUILD A FUTURE

THE ACTING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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Håfa Adai yan Tirow!

As the saying goes: "it takes a community to raise a child". Personally, I believe that it also takes a community to build a future. A future where people with disabilities are provided with equal access to opportunities and resources here in our community; a future where barriers are broken while awareness and acceptance becomes the common norm. In my years of service and professional work in the disability field, first as a special education teacher aide, and now, as a an acting director and transition specialist, I have come to learn that is exactly what the CNMI Office of the Governor – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is all about: a community, a team, a family with a vision and drive to help people with disabilities build a future that they claim as their own. Thus, is it for this reason that I joyfully present to our community, on behalf of the CNMI OVR Management and Staff, the 2022 Citizen Centric Report of CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

This fiscal year has been, for us, a shift of perspective and an oportune moment for us to focus on our mission of helping our consumers achieve their respective vocational goals by carving pathways that lead to meaningful training and employment opportunities. As you browse through our citizen centric report, it is our hope that you will be able to get a glance of what we do in helping our consumers build a future. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us through the various means of communication with our office. Until then, I am,

Sincerely yours,


SAMUEL DAVID F. SANTOS
CNMI OVR Acting Director

WHO WE ARE:

OUR MISSION

The mission of the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is to **INCREASE EMPLOYMENT** and **PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE** among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

OUR VISION

The vision of the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is for individuals with disabilities to

- **EMPLOYED** in competitive and integrated work settings
- **EMPOWERED** to make qualified decisions and informed choices
- **ECONOMICALLY** self-sufficient

BASIC SUPPORT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (BS/SE) PROGRAM

The Basic Support/Supported Employment (BS/SE) Program provides qualified individuals with disabilities the necessary supports they need in order to successfully achieve their employment and vocational goal(s). The BS/SE program likewise provides various training opportunities through the work-experience training (WET) program and on-the-job training (OJT) program, as well as job search placement, counseling and guidance and other services that may be deemed necessary to successfully achieve and/or maintain the individual's employment goal.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES (PRE-ETS) PROGRAM

The Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Program provides students with disabilities, ages 16-21, transition services to help prepare them for life after high school. This is achieved through its five-core services: Job Exploration Counseling, Work-Based Learning Experience, Counseling on Post-Secondary Education, Work-Readiness Training, and Instruction on Self-Advocacy.

INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR THE OLDER BLIND (ILOB) PROGRAM

The Independent Living for the Older Blind (ILOB) Program provides individuals, ages 55 and older, and with severe visual impairments (corrected vision in the better eye is 20/70 or worse (at least low vision)), with a desire to be able to live independently. The ILOB Program provides a variety of low-tech to high-tech assistive technology that can assist the individual in his/her daily living activities.

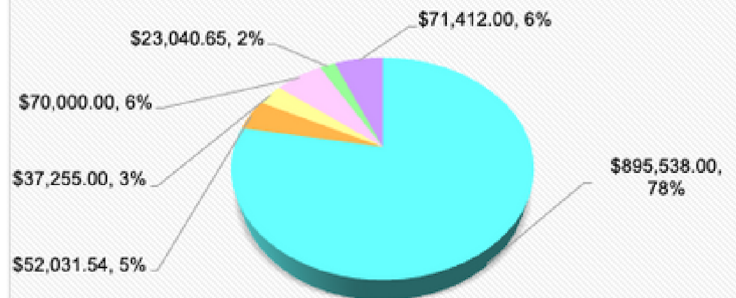
2022 DATA

FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Federal & State Appropriations



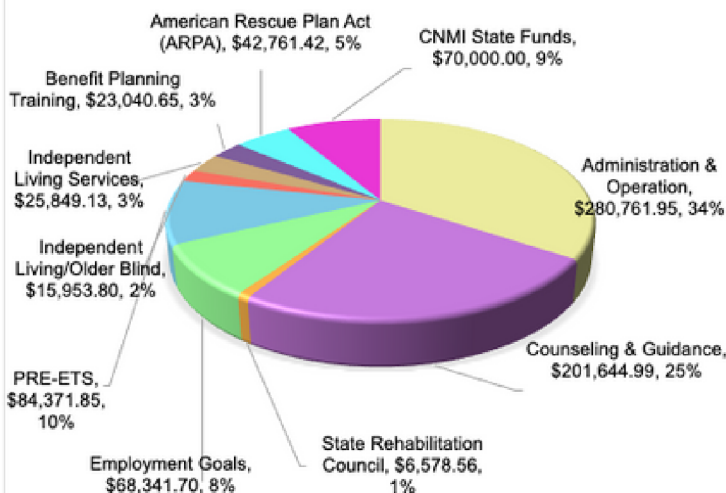
FEDERAL & STATE APPROPRIATIONS for FY 2022



Total Appropriations: \$1,149,277.19

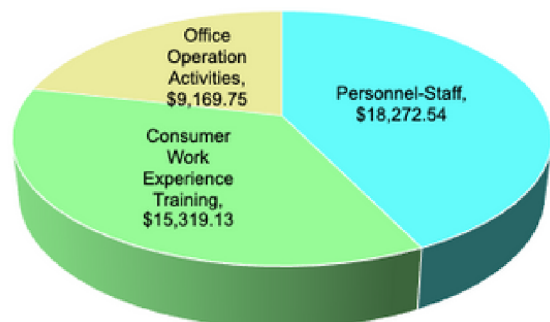
- Title I Basic Support Program
- Title VII-A Independent Living/Older Blind
- Title VII-B Independent Living Services
- CNMI State Funds
- Benefit Planning Training
- American Rescue Plan Act

FEDERAL & STATE EXPENSES FY 2022

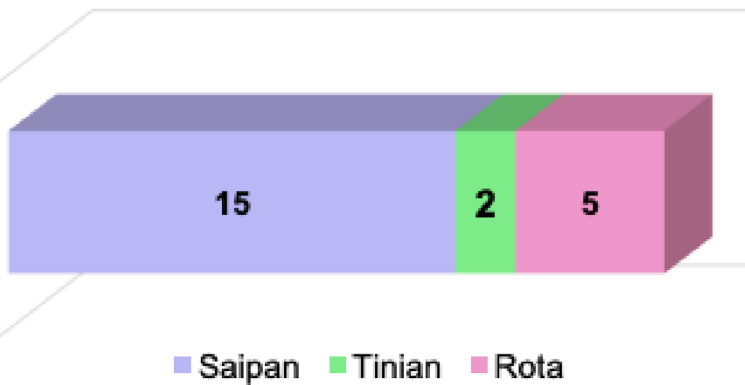


Total Expenses: \$819,304.05

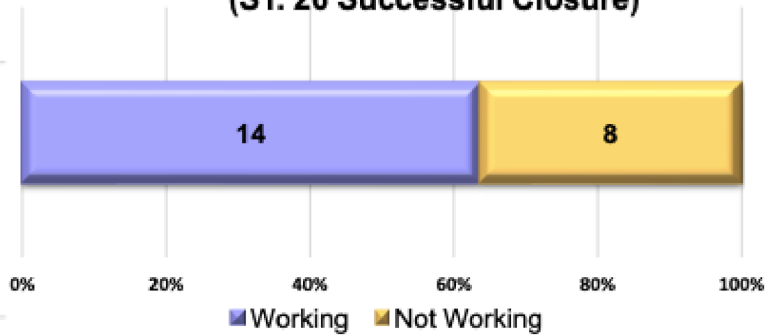
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenses FY 2022



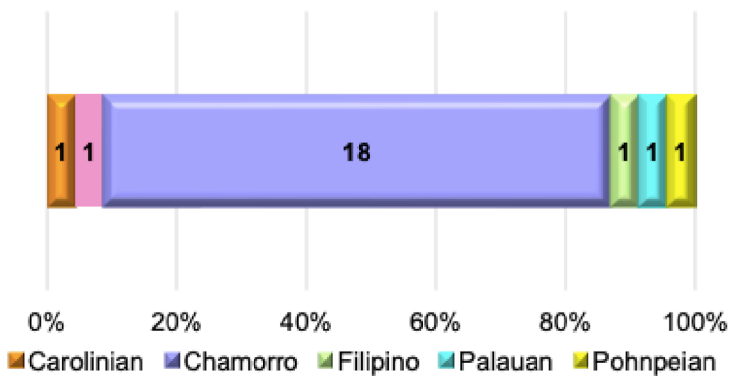
Island (ST. 26 - Successful Closure)



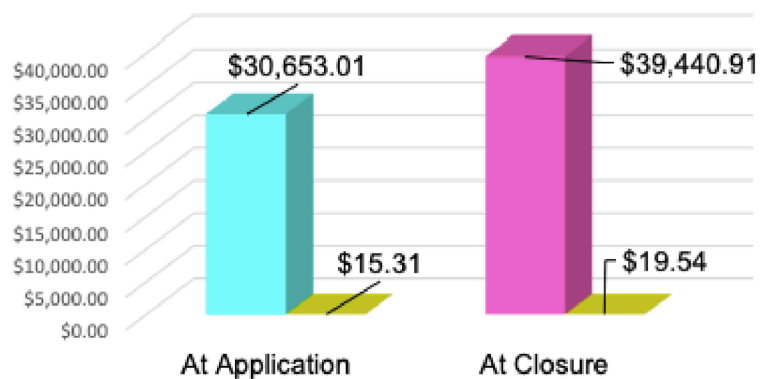
At Application: Working vs Not Working (ST. 26 Successful Closure)



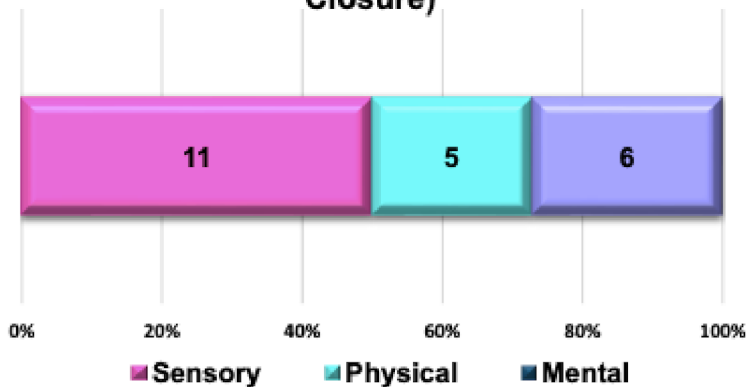
Ethnicity (ST. 26 - Successful Closure)



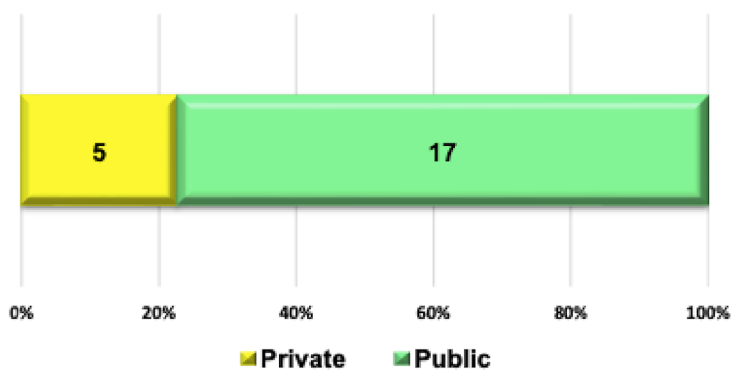
Average Annual & Hourly Earnings of Consumer Before and After Rehabilitation (ST. 26 Successful Closure)



Disability Category (ST. 26 - Successful Closure)



Sectors (ST. 26 Successful Closure)



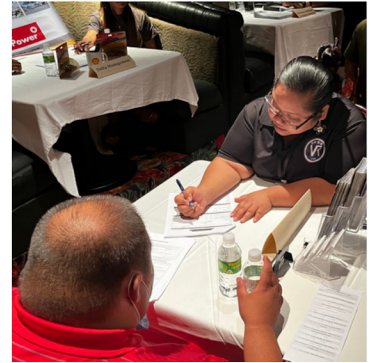
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED








- CNMI OVR hosted the 2021 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) at the beginning of the fiscal year
- Established relationships with various partners and community stakeholders through business engagements and school outreach efforts
- Last June, the WIOA Tri-Agency Modified State Plan was approved by our grantor agency, the RSA
- CNMI OVR participated in several community service efforts such as beach clean-ups and bus stop rehabilitation projects.

OUR CHALLENGES

- Locating full-time employment opportunities for our consumers with disabilities continues to be an existing challenge post-COVID-19 pandemic
- Short-staffing issues were experienced throughout the year for specialized positions such as Admin and Operations Specialist, Employment Specialist, VR Counselors/Aides
- Finally, one of the biggest challenges we had experienced this year was the delay in receiving our federal allotment.



CONTACT US

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