

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT



CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

Pursuant to Article III, Section 18 of the CNMI Constitution, the Carolinian Affairs Office (CAO) shall:

- 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.
- Our mission includes providing educational, social and cultural programs and services to our community.

CAO has three (3) Divisions

- 1) Executive
- 2) Outreach Programs & Services
- 3) Maintenance & Field Operation



WHAT DID FY 2022 LOOK LIKE?

In FY 2022, the Carolinian Affairs Office assisted more than 1500 individuals, despite the continuing threat of the global health pandemic. These individuals were assisted with their application for the local Economic Impact Payment (LEIP), inquiries and follow ups on their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) submitted to Department of Labor, applications for the Fisheries Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and other benefits available to those victimized during the pandemic. The Carolinian Affairs Office also provided a wide range of services to the community:

- **INFORMATION & REFERRAL**
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ADVISE & SUPPORT**
- **DOCUMENT HANDLING & PREPARATION**

HIGHLIGHTS & COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

MAKALI'I TEENAGER: Master Carver Manny Yaisomal and his crew members worked diligently on the repair and restoration of the Carolinian canoe. Makali'i Teenager, to make sure that it will sail again.

CONSULTATION SESSIONS: The office had offered assistants to applicants for the Cares Act - Fishermen Relief & other benefits made possible by ARPA, was held at the CAO, where notary services was provided.

TALK STORY: Master Carver Manuel Yaisomal presented to the Western Pacific Maritime Academy sharing his knowledge on traditional canoe building and experiences.

HAFADA ADAI TIROW EXPERIENCE: Launching of the Hafa Adai Tirow Experience on Tuesdays & Thursdays

HERITAGE MONTH: Each year in September, the Carolinian Affairs Office and Indigenous Affairs Office and the community observe and celebrate the people of the Mariana Islands and held events throughout the month. The official proclamation signing was held at the Labor Day Festivities. Activities and events such as the Sunday Concert, Cultural Outreach, the commemoration of the 13th Fishermen and Chief Aghurubw were celebrated in September.

United Carolinians Association (UCA) - Project Liffang

Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) - Hafa Adai Tirow Cultural Experience

CNMI Women's Association & Women Affairs Office - 2022 International Women's Day

CNMI PSS - CCLHS Cultural Outreach

Joeten Kiyu Public Library - National Library Week

Dandan Middle School - 8th Grade Retreat

William S. Reyes Elementary School - 5th Grade School Summit

Systems of Care, CHCC-CGC - Mental Health Awareness Month

Division of Youth Services, DCCA - KCC Cultural Outreach

Rematao Music Society, Inc - Sunset Concert

2022 NMPMG Committee & DCCA - Opening & Closing ceremony & Sports lounge

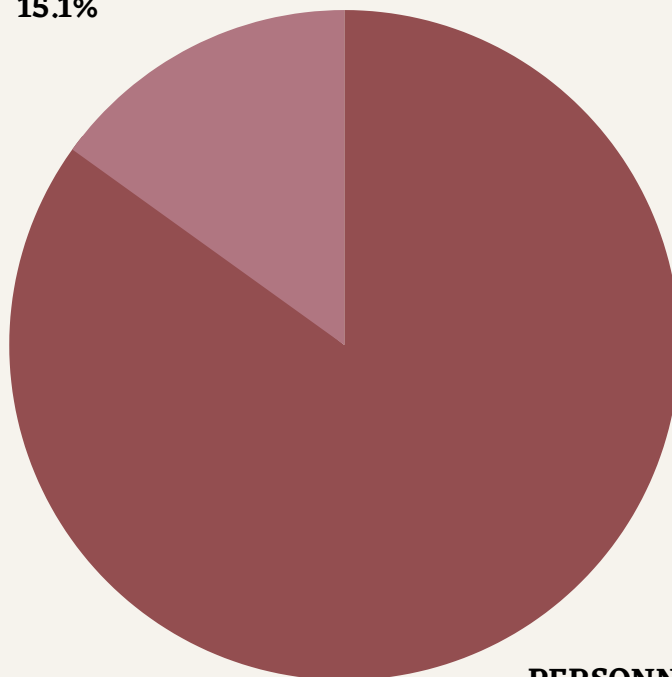
FUNDS SOURCES & EXPENDITURES

Public Law 22-02 (Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2022) appropriated \$130,427 for the Carolinian Affairs Office. The CAO also received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

| | GENERAL FUND | CAO ARPA | TOTAL |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| PERSONNEL | \$ 110,763.00 | \$155,823.00 | \$ 266,586.00 |
| OPERATIONS | \$ 19,664.00 | \$ 1,558.00 | \$ 21,222.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 130,427.00 | \$157,381.00 | \$287,808.00 |

OPERATIONS

15.1%



PERSONNEL

84.9%

CHALLENGES OF FY 2022

UNDER STAFF : The Carolinian Affairs Office have been under staffed for years. Funding made available through ARPA made it possible for the CAO to employee new personnel for its programs & services. Request for Civil Service FTE's for permanent placement.

COMMUNICATION : A key factor in moving projects forward, communication between the CAO and other departments have not been as successful as we would like it to be. For this reason, it has caused delays in projects such as the renovation of the CAO.

DATA QUALITY : Despite its availability, data is not being used effectively as it is inaccurate and inconsistent.

MOVING FORWARD

Appreciating the intent and purpose of the Carolinian Affairs Office will continue positioning its mission, vision and goals at the forefront of its mandate which will only lead to the betterment of the Carolinian community. Creating pathways for our people to thrive and allowing for continuity for its programs and services will propel the office forward into the future.

Other ways of improvement are to develop new programs that will focus on socio-economic factors relating to the times, incorporating media platforms for showcasing culture, and economic prosperity. Collaborate with agencies and NGO's that will improve and benefit our people to include talking stories sharing beneficial information and outreach to include the community and their hidden aspirations.

