



CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

2023 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

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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 & Administrative
 - 2) Outreach Programs & Services
 - 3) Maintenance & Field Operation

Measuring Progress

The Carolinian Affairs Office continues to work in collaboration with the Indigenous Affairs Office. We stand ready and stay committed in working jointly on all Projects and/ or Initiatives to ensure full participation of our local people.

The CAO and IAO did presentations through various media outlets promoting a united front and explaining the joint venture to our people.

Public Assistance Grant, approximately \$78,000.00 was approved for the renovation of the CAO. Given the lapse timeframe, we are renegotiating and scaling back on the project to ensure we stay within figure, which may require changes to the original “scope of work”.

Through funding from the Refaluwasch Advisory Council (RAC), major office renovation was initiated.

The Office has secured funding of more than \$53,000.00 for the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month and Project Liffang/ Regalu.

The Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month was a month-long celebration in September, with emphasis on cultural outreach, traditional performances and local music on Sundays.

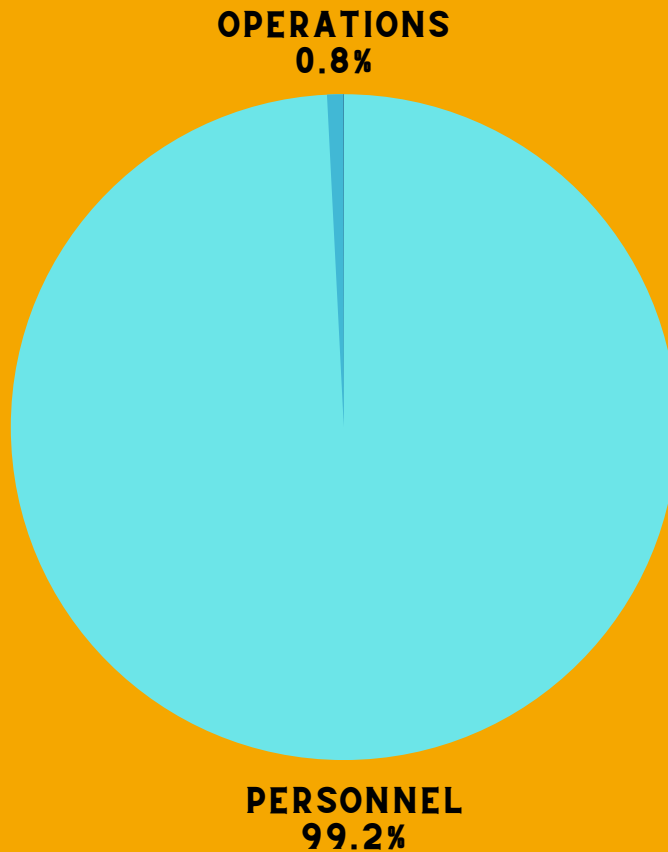
In regard to the Bilingual program debacle, we’ve reached a compromise with the Public School System:

- Hire retired bilingual teachers on a contractual basis.
- Suspension of the 24-college credit requirement for two (2) years.
- Require non-certified teachers sign a Memorandum of Agreement, assuring PSS to comply with the credit requirement in two years.

Fiscal Year 2023

	GENERAL FUND	ARPA	TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$129,151	\$32,288	\$161,439
OPERATIONS	\$1,292	-0-	\$1,292
TOTAL	\$130,443	\$32,288	\$162,731

Expenses



PL 22-22 allocated funds for the Carolinian Affairs Office totaling \$162,731 (General Funds and ARPA Funds) for Operations & Personnel.

What's Next?

01. Priority/ GOAL

Work with the administration and relevant entities to create a special account specifically for the funds derived from DPL Leases under “public benefit”, which mandates funding for the office

02. Priority/ GOAL

Coordinate our efforts (with stakeholders) to ensure adequate and sufficient Carolinian Bilingual Teachers throughout schools in the CNMI

03. Priority/ GOAL

Coordinate with the Public Assistance Office to finalize the changes pertaining to the FEMA grant for a major renovation of the office.

04. Priority/ GOAL

Initiate cost-cutting efforts and ascertain other funding sources to supplement annual programs and projects such as Liffang, Heritage Month and School Outreach