



A REPORT TO OUR CITIZENS

FISCAL YEAR 2023

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VR Portion of the Unified State Plan 2020—2023 Key Priorities & Goals

The SRC and OVR jointly developed the key priorities and goals to ensure the alignment with WIOA and include transition services for qualified youth and students with disabilities, business engagement, program partnerships and increased competitive integrated employment.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is a State and Federal partnership agency, placed within the Office of the Governor, that provides services to individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. OVR was established in 1975 and serves the three major islands of the Commonwealth: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Mission

OVR's mission is to Increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Vision

The vision of OVR is that individuals with disabilities are employed in competitive and integrated work settings, are empowered to make qualified decisions and informed choices, and are economically self-sufficient.

Priority 1: Transition and Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS)

Goal 1.1 Full implementation of pre-employment transition services through the realignment of staff and service delivery methods

Goal 1.2 Expand and improve the CNMI's service delivery infrastructure and the Program's capacity for making Pre-ETS available to students with disabilities in need of such services

Priority 2: Business/Employer Engagement

Goal 2.1 Increase partnerships with local businesses to develop or expand work experiences through on-the-job and work experience training, internship/ apprenticeship, and employment opportunities for qualified adults and youth with disabilities.

Goal 2.2 Develop systems capacity, knowledge and skills to effectively meet the needs of businesses/employers.

Priority 3: Competitive Integrated Employment

Goal 3.1 Increase competitive integrated employment opportunities, supports and outcomes for adults and youth with disabilities, particularly those with the most significant disabilities.

Priority 4: Agency Performance

Goal 4.1 Improve overall Agency performance



No-Cost Services To Businesses

- Consultations regarding Reasonable Job Accommodations for a newly hired employee or one who has acquired a disability.
- Disability Employment Training, such as Disability Awareness, Sensitivity Training, Americans with Disabilities Act (Title I-Employment), etc. Training can be customized to meet the needs of businesses.
- Recruitment and retention of qualified job applicants/employees with disabilities.

Funding for OJT is available to employers through OVR to help off-set the cost for providing training to an OVR consumer.

Basic Support Services to Qualified Individuals with Disabilities

Services might include any combination of the following:

- Vocational guidance and career counseling
- Restoration (physical/mental)
- Vocational and other training services
- Rehabilitation technology, including assistive technology services, assistive technology devices, and rehabilitation engineering
- Job placement into suitable employment
- Occupational tools and equipment
- Personal assistance services such as personal attendant, interpreter, reader and scribe

There is a financial needs test at OVR, so you may be required to contribute to the cost of some services.



Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS)

PreETS is provided to students with disabilities who are:

1. Between the ages of 16-21 years
2. Enrolled in high school and is receiving Special Education Services, or is in college, or participating in another educational program.

Pre-ETS services include:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on postsecondary (college) options
- Work readiness training
- Instruction on self-advocacy

Independent Living Older Blind Program

Our federally-funded Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program provides independent living services to individuals with visual impairment (20/70 in the better eye) aged 55 years and older to assist them in maintaining their independence at home and in their communities.

Services are individualized and cater to the specific needs and Independent Living (IL) goals of the individual.

INDEPENDENCE is the goal!

Independent Living Services (ILS)

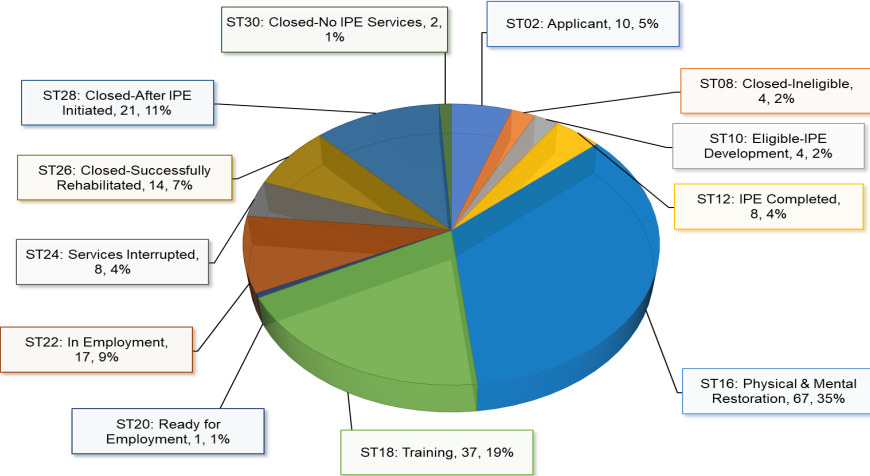
The ILS program grant funded through the Administration for Community Living, provides resources that supports the work of the State Independent Living Council (SILC) as well as provides funds for activities reflected in the approved State Plan for Independent Living. Funds are allocated, through a contract, to the Center for Living Independently (CLI) to provide Independent Living Services to people with disabilities in the CNMI. CLI is required to provide five core services.

1. Information & referral
2. Independent living Skills training
3. Peer counseling
4. Individual & systems advocacy
5. Transition from institutions or postsecondary life

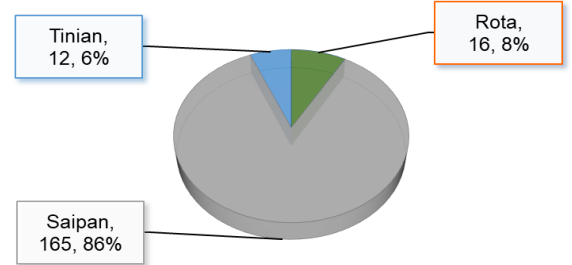
OUR CONSUMER DATA



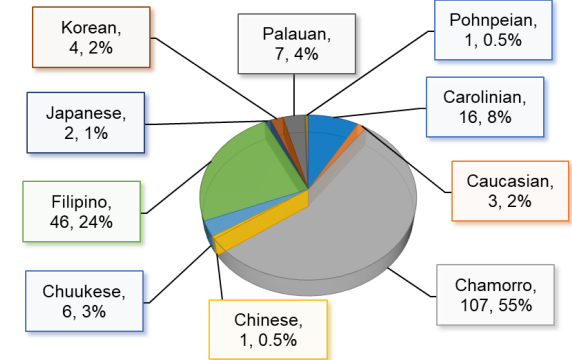
CASE STATUS



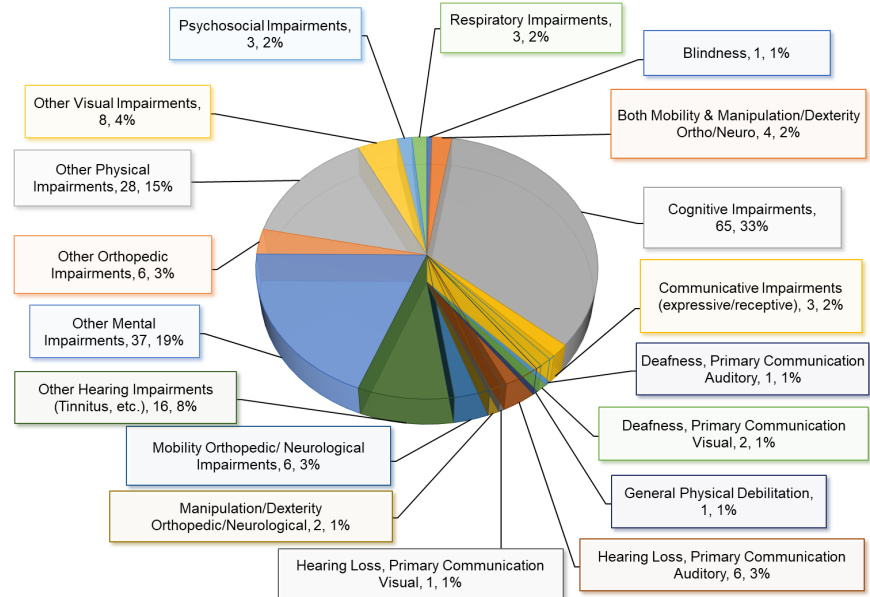
ISLAND



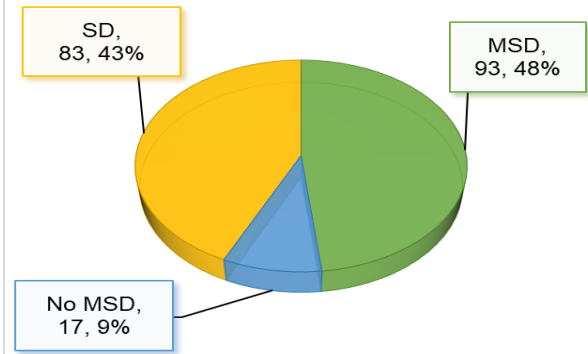
ETHNICITY



PRIMARY DISABILITY



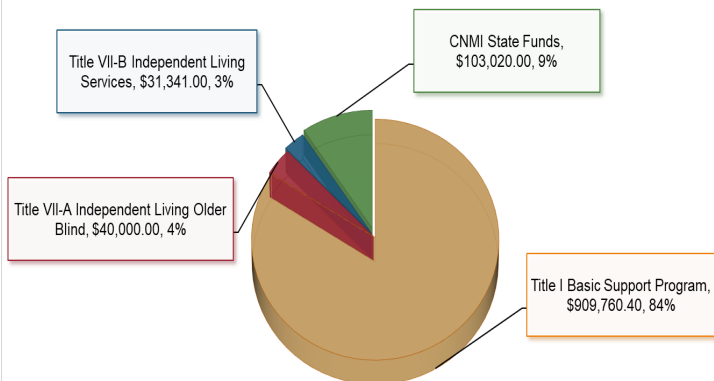
DISABILITY LEVEL



OUR FINANCES

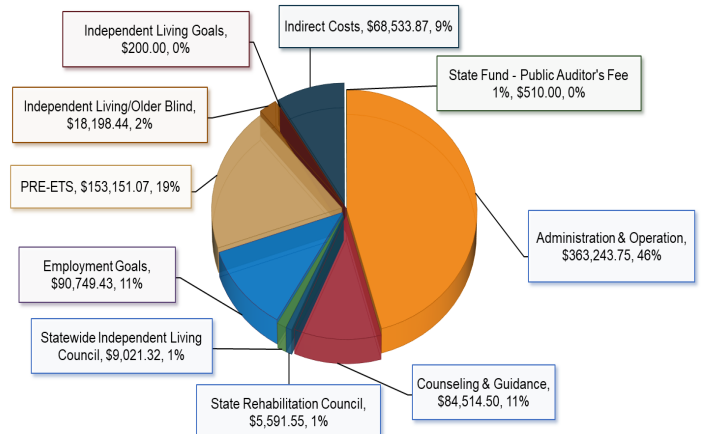
FEDERAL & STATE APPROPRIATION FOR FY 2023

Total Appropriation: \$1,084,121.40

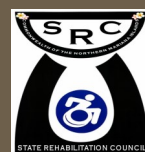


FEDERAL & STATE EXPENSES FY 2023

Total Expenses: \$793,713.93



Collaborative Partnerships



DISABILITY NETWORK PARTNERS (DNP)

The CNMI has a unique (to my knowledge no other state in the nation has anything remotely similar) collaborative spirit among several of its local agencies tasked with coordinating, facilitating and providing said entitlements and services on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Known as the Disability Network Partners or DNP, we stand in solidarity around the common mission of helping all people with disabilities to achieve their employment goals, live independent lives as contributing members of our community and in support of their general quest for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The core partners of the DNP (this is not an exhaustive list), their respective mission/functions and contact information include the following:

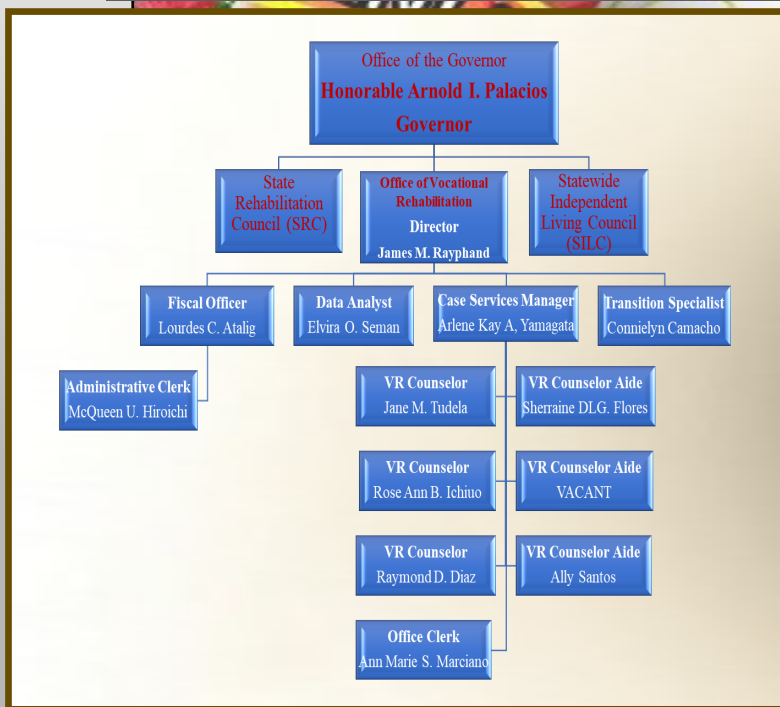
Center for Living Independently (CLI): “To ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated within the community.” (670) 322-4303/04 / 287-4304 or email: ssatur@clcnmi.org

Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD): “To promote systems change to ensure that individuals with disabilities and their families have the same opportunities as others in the community.” (670) 664-7000 email: psa-blan.cnmicdd@gmail.com

University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD): “To promote, support and enhance the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families in the community.” Email: cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu, Eleen.babauta@marianas.edu

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI): “To protect the civil, legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities”...through legally-based advocacy. (670) 235-7273/4 email: gborja@nmpasi.org

Organizational Chart (As of October 30, 2023)



STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)

- Antonelli Rosario, Chair
- Preston Basa, Vice-Chair
- Emet Fitial, Fiscal
- John Cabrera, Secretary

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

- Nicolas Torres, Chair
- Martha Hocog, Vice-Chair
- Estanislao Benavente, Fiscal
- Susan Satur, Secretary

“Let us remember and celebrate this year’s 50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in our journey towards a more inclusive and fair society, where everyone, no matter their abilities, can pursue their dreams and live life to the fullest. Together, we can ensure that every individual has the chance to shine and contribute their unique talents to our society.” - Preston Basa, SRC Vice-Chairperson

For more information contact us at: (670) 322-6537/8 www.ovrgov.net email: nmidir@ovrgov.net