



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

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# 2024 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

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# WHO ARE WE?



The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) was established in 1980 under the Office of the Governor through Executive Order No. 16, which created the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System on November 20, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 11-47, CJPA's Councils and authorities were created by law.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency was established as the staff of the Supervisory Council, to function in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Laws for the Commonwealth and tasked to comply with the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safety Street Act of 1968, as amended, and other related federal laws.

The Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the CJPA Supervisory Council, serves as the "Supervisory Body" for the administration of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs for the CNMI and as a mechanism for cooperative action among the various law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and related community programs in the CNMI

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is committed to providing service to the public and community programs by securing federal funds for critical criminal Justice needs under the direction of the Governor, Supervisory Council, and Youth Advisory Council. CJPA currently functions in a manner to achieve these two broad goals:

1. To successfully administer federal programs relating to the CNMI criminal justice system by preparing and developing annual state plan applications for federal funds to benefit the CNMI criminal justice system and monitoring and evaluating criminal justice programs and projects funded under CJPA-administered programs.
2. To advise and assist the Governor in developing policies, plans, programs, and budgets for improving the coordination, administration, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in the Commonwealth.
3. To encourage comprehensive justice planning efforts.
4. To monitor, evaluate, and coordinate programs and projects, funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth Government, aimed at reducing crime and juvenile delinquency and improving the administration of justice.
5. To apply for, contract, receive, and expend for its purposes any appropriations or grants from the Commonwealth, the Federal Government, or any other source, public or private, in accordance with the appropriate process.
6. To collect from any Commonwealth department, agency, instrumentality, office, or other entity information data, reports, statistics, or other material necessary to carry out the Council's or Agency's functions.

# SUPERVISORY COUNCIL

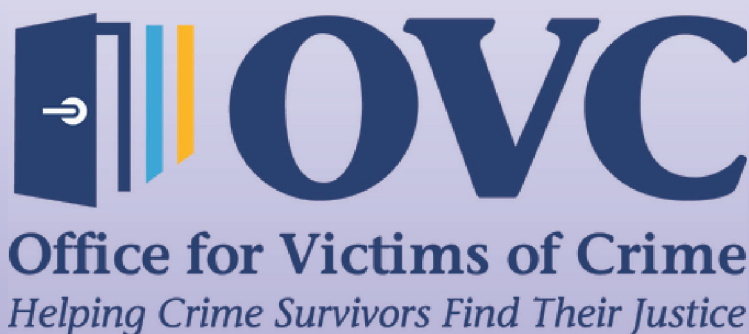
- **Chairman Hon. Alexandro C. Castro**  
Chief Justice, CNMI Supreme Court
- **Vice-Chairman: Hon. Edward Manibusan**  
Attorney General, CNMI
- **Anthony Macaranas**  
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
- **Hon. Robert Naraja**  
Presiding Judge, CNMI Superior Court
- **Douglas Hartig**  
Public Defender, CNMI
- **Anthony Torres**  
Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- **Christopher Leon Guerrero**  
Chair, Board of Parole
- **Felix R. Nogis**  
Executive Director, Carolinian Affairs Office
- **Lawrence F. Camacho, Ed. D.**  
Commissioner of Education, CNMI Public School System
- **Ignacio Aquiningoc**  
Chairman, CJPA Youth Advisory Council
- **Vacant: Rota Representative**
- **Vacant: Tinian Representative**
- **Hon. Valentino Taisacan**  
Mayor of the Northern Islands
- **Maisie B. Tenorio**  
Women Representative
- **Patrick Tenorio**  
Citizen Member
- **Jim Arenovski**  
Citizen Member

## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Chairman Ignacio P. Aquiningoc**
- **Rep. John Paul Sablan**
- **John S. Blanco**
- **Crystal C. Deleon Guerrero**
- **Shirley L. Norita**
- **Sylvio Ada**
- **TaAnn Kabua-Demapan**
- **Kathleen Keiko Yamagata**
- **Tina Crisostimo**
- **Calvani Deleon Guerrero**
- **Joseph Kevin Villagomez, MA**
- **Robert L. Coldeen III**
- **Mariah Barcinas**
- **Rownel Jody V. Coloma**
- **Franco M. Santos**
- **Leeani V. Saralu**
- **Luis V. Deleon Guerrero**
- **Delbert Pua**

# GRANT PROGRAMS

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency currently administers the following grants:



## **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):**

The VOCA Grant Program supports direct services to crime victims (i.e. persons who have suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime).



## **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):**

The Violence Against Women Act is designed to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and to increase the availability of services for victims of these crimes. The funding may be used for personnel, supplies, and training.

## **Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP):**

The SASP Formula Grant Program funds states and territories to support rape crisis and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations that provide core services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

# GRANT PROGRAMS



Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

## **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program:**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. The funding may be used to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, and training for law enforcement programs, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections programs, and drug treatment

## **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT):**

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT): The (RSAT) program aims to provide residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to detained and incarcerated adult and juvenile populations housed within the CNMI's lone, collocated correctional facility.

## **John R. Justice (JRJ):**

The John R. Justice Grant is to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as local and state prosecutors and local, state or federal public defenders.

## **National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP):**

The NCHIP Grant aims to improve the quality, timeliness and immediate accessibility of criminal history records and related information. The NCHIP funds aim to establish an integrated, cloud-based infrastructure, a Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) that will connect all database management systems of criminal justice agencies within the CNMI.



Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

## **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)**

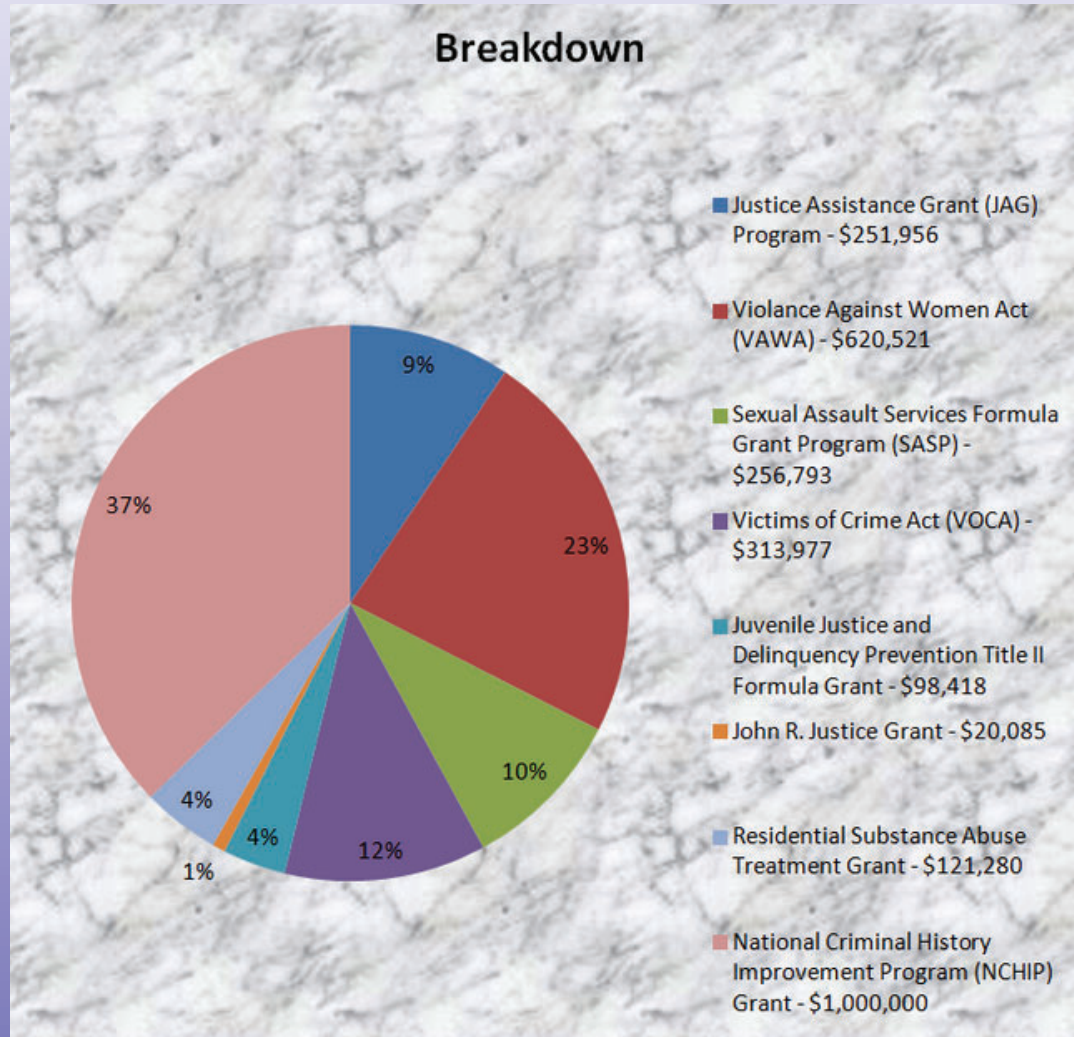
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant supports the state, local, and tribal efforts to reduce and prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence and abuse. The funds may be used for personnel, supplies, and training.

# Sub- Grantees

01	Office of Attorney General
02	Drug Court Divison
03	Mental Health Court Docket
04	Family Court Divison
05	Office of Adult Probation
06	Marshal Service Division
07	Superior Court
08	Division of Youth Services
09	NMI Crimestoppers
10	Karidat
11	Commonwealth Health Corporation
12	Divison of Customs & Biosecurity
13	Department of Public Safety
14	Department of Corrections
15	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
16	Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation (SAAR)



## WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



## WHAT OUR MAIN EXPENSES ARE

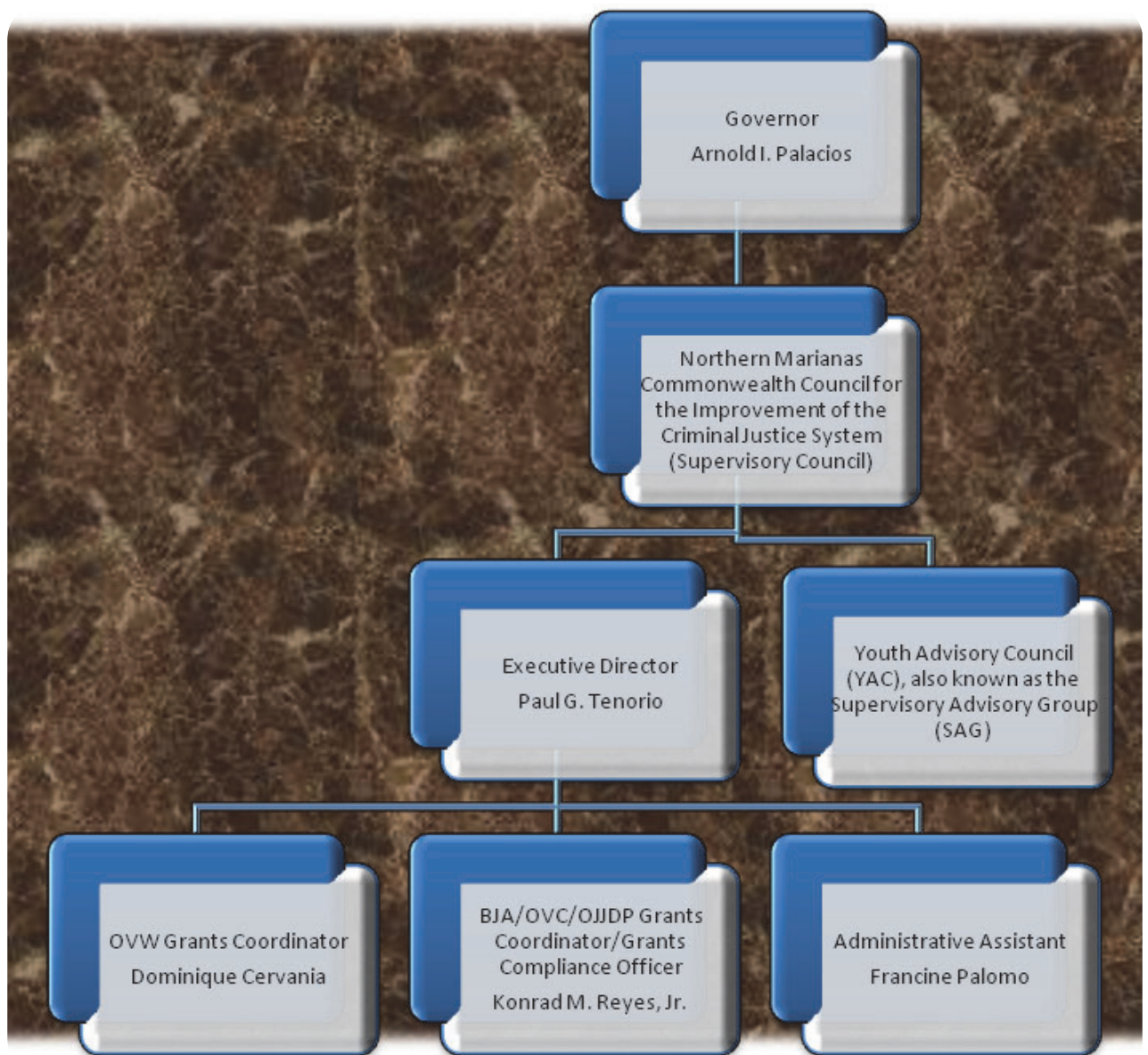
→ PERSONNEL **\$166,000**

→ OPERATIONS **\$3,310.00**

→ UTILITIES **\$4,311.00**



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is staffed with an Executive Director who oversees the office operations.

Below the Executive Director are Program Coordinators who manage and administer the various grants awarded to CJPA by the US Department of Justice.

The Administrative Assistant assists the office with basic office operations, such as clerical duties, the routing of documents, and assists in the processing of documents pertinent to the procurement of everyday office needs.

# Outlook

## CHALLENGES

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) receives funding from local appropriations and federal grants. Additional funding is required to enhance personnel capacity and improve daily operations by eliminating unallowable cost items on several federal grants.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency currently operates with a team of four dedicated staff members. The team comprises Executive Director Paul Tenorio, Program Coordinator Dominique V. Cervania, Program Coordinator Konrad M. Reyes Jr, and Administrative Assistant Francine R. Palomo. As the organization aims to expand its impact, there is a pressing need to recruit additional staff. This expansion is crucial for increasing grant applications and enhancing the support provided to our sub-grantees. Notably, two of our program coordinators departed at the end of FY23, and another left during FY24.

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

CJPA staff received training to perform their draw-downs on federal awards, and two of our staff members attended training on Introduction to Governmental Accounting and Reporting. These types of training are essential to ensure that our office continues to adhere to strict guidelines on federal awards and manage each award efficiently. The VOCA Program Coordinator and our Executive Director got to attend the 2024 National VOCA conference. The VAWA Program Coordinator got to attend the conference on Crimes against women as well as the National Sexual Assault Conference. CJPA also attended the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation Signing and the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing.

Our office has a history of managing federal funding for awards such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (STOP), Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Formula Grant Program. Recently, we applied for and received funding for dormant awards. CJPA was awarded \$313,977.00 for VOCA, \$620,521.00 for STOP, \$256,793.00 for SASP, \$121,280.00 for RSAT, and \$20,895.00 for the John R. Justice Grant Program (JRJ). CJPA is currently awaiting a determination from JAG and OJJDP for the FY 2024 Awarding. The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) award is designed to support the CNMI Department of Corrections in running a program to help incarcerated substance abuse offenders overcome their addiction and successfully reintegrate into society. In FY24, our office secured additional funding for the RSAT Grant to ensure the continuation of this crucial program. Additionally, we obtained \$1 million for the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) to enhance the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) by connecting information systems for all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in the CNMI. Currently, we are in the initial stages of the NCHIP project, seeking proposals from contractors specializing in cloud-based data infrastructures. Despite the CJIS project's initiation in the early to mid-2000s, the network never fully materialized to reach its full potential. Recognizing the technological advancements of the past two decades, we are committed to leveraging these technologies through the 2024 NCHIP Funding.

# Outlook

## LOOKING AHEAD

CJPA will continue to collaborate with various government agencies, private entities, and federal agencies. We will explore innovative ways to support our sub-grantees and the community through collaboration. A key focus for FY25 and beyond is to hire a dedicated CJIS Network Administrator to oversee the CJIS project as well as more Program Coordinators to help with the workload of our current Program Coordinators. It is an understatement to say that the CJIS network project is crucial for improving the criminal justice system in the CNMI. It cannot be emphasized enough that the establishment of a full-fledged CJIS network in the CNMI is long overdue. Moving forward, our office aims to enhance collaboration with our federal partners, local law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies to ensure that our mission of improving the criminal justice system remains a constant focus.

CJPA is working to streamline and improve its processes and procedures in order to better support our sub-grantees and stakeholders. We are seeking guidance from our federal partners, such as the US DOJ Territories Financial Support Center (TFSC) and the Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) so that our staff remains equipped to assist our subgrantees.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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