



Carolinian Affairs Office

Office of the Governor

2021 Citizen Centric Report



OVERVIEW

CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE (CAO) was created by mandate of Article III, Section 18 of the CNMI Constitution.

- to 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.

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MISSION

"to develop programs and provide services to protect, promote and preserve the welfare, culture and traditions of the indigenous Carolinians of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands"

VISION

"An empowered Carolinian Community thriving, recognizing their indigenous rights as set forth by their culture, the constitution and laws and proudly exhibiting their culture by speaking the language and practicing their customs and traditions"



GOAL

To empower and promote self-sufficiency and cultural preservation by providing social and economic development opportunities through available technical assistance to eligible individuals. It is the fiduciary duty and role of this office to assist the Governor in overseeing the general welfare of the Carolinian Community, to increase awareness of government functions and preserve the culture of the indigenous Carolinians by promoting cultural programs and activities.

Highlights

"To empower for Self-Sufficiency"

Reaching Out...

Employment: Preparation or Printing of resumes, recommendations or referral and follow-ups on employment applications.

Documents: Assist in completing applications for services when needed, preparation of affidavits and gathering other required documents required for submission of benefits application.

Advocacy: Make appointments and assist in preparing all necessary information and documents required for submission.

Others: Accommodated more than 200 individuals and organizations who reserved the Carolinian Uut Pavilion for meetings, parties and other gatherings.

Since the worldwide outbreak of the **Corona Virus**, CAO continued to open its doors to assist more than 2000 individuals with their application for the Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and other relief benefits available to all those victimized by the Super-typhoons and who have lost their jobs during these troubled times.

CAO collaborated with other government agencies and non-government organizations on events and activities catered to the general public.

In action...



**Carolinian Affairs Office
Bwulasiyol Refaluwasch**

For more information call 234-6383-5 or
visit our website at www.cnmico.com

P's of the Carolinian Culture and Traditions

Preserving, Protecting, Promoting and Perpetuating our Carolinian Culture also takes precedence here at CAO.

In December of 2020, the **Matawal Wóol Display Hall** officially opened. Displayed are collection of photos and cultural crafts created by the students who participated in the activities of the Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch Project, the 3 year program funded by the Administration for Native Americans Office under the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The Annual Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month was celebrated this year with Sunset Concerts, a Cuisine Night, cultural outreach and closed out with the 1st Annual Tipiyeew Ina'famaolik Marianas Day. The day was filled with cooking and cultural demonstrations and performances. The Marianas Visitors Authority played a big role in contributing to the event and pledging their support to sponsor this annual event of strengthening the unity of the indigenous of the Marianas and at the same time promoting our beautiful and unique cultures.



\$Financials

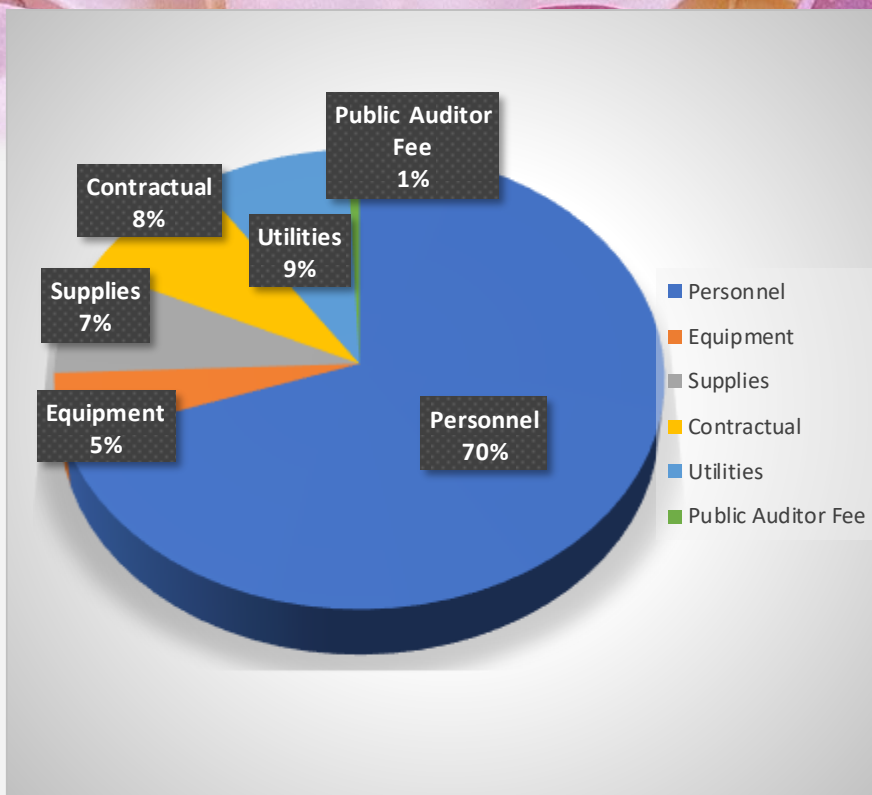
"To perpetuate our heritage"

FUNDING \$\$

The funding for Fiscal Year 2021 comes from Public Law 21-35 Budget Appropriations Act of 2021 which gave the Carolinian Affairs Office \$128,599 about 42% less than the 2020 appropriations. However, CAO had received some funding assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act. Under this administration.

About seventy percent (70%) of CAO's appropriated budget covers the personnel expenses.

The office remains diligent in their spending due to limited funds especially with the effects of this pandemic. We have been very fortunate to have great partners with non-government organizations come out to help



Our Culture
Our Tradition
Our People
Our Community



What's Next

"To strive for progress to excel"

IN MOTION

In our effort to expand and strengthen the programs and activities to accomplish the goals and missions of the office, CAO has increased its staffing with plans to reach out to the Carolinian community. CAO is in the process of developing surveys and questionnaires to distinctly identify the needs and struggles of our community and advocate and refer them to the proper agency or organization. It is the intent of the office to build an effective way to communicate with the community and share and clarify benefits that are available to them. CAO sees the importance of building confidence in our people by providing the services we render to cultivate the welfare of the community in order for them to recognize and appreciate the importance of preserving, protecting and perpetuating their culture.

The office also continues its partnership with non-profit organizations whose goals are also to deliver programs and activities to improve the well-being of our Carolinian Community. The United Carolinians Association Liffang Project is one example of an activity initiated to educate our local artists or future entrepreneurs on how to start a business. Other NGO's are currently coming up with programs and activities to build a sustainable community in our CNMI.



Carolinian Affairs Office

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