



CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

FY 2025 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

Acting Chair, Board of Parole

Lawrence F. Camacho, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Education, CNMI Public School System

Felix R. Nogis

Executive Director, Carolinian Affairs Office

Leeani V. Saralu

Chairperson, 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

Chairperson Leeani V. Saralu

Vice Chair Sylvio Ada

Rep. John Paul Sablan

John S. Blanco

Shirley L. Norita

Tina Crisostomo

Calvani Deleon Guerrero

Joseph Kevin Villagomez, MA

Robert L. Coldeen III

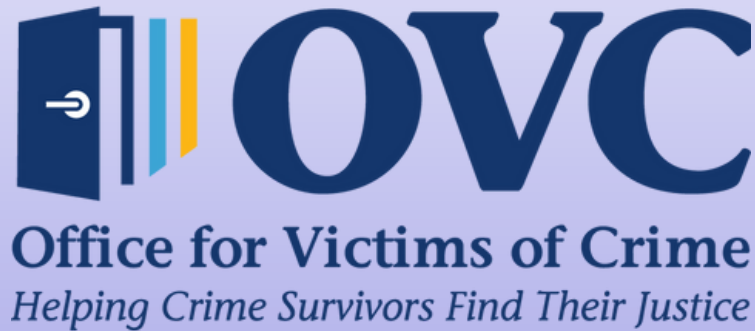
Franco M. Santos

Shanel Sablan

Robert Magofna

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



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, drug treatment and enforcement programs, etc.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT):

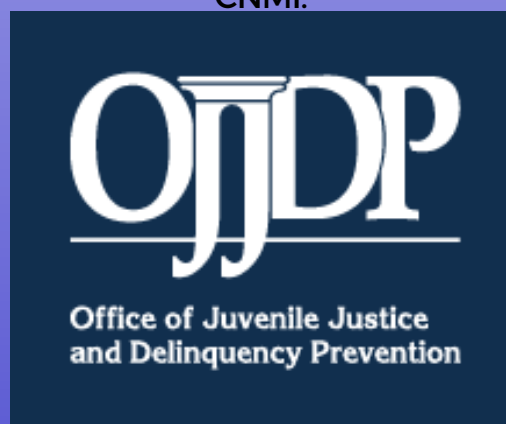
The RSAT program aims to provide residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to detained and incarcerated adult and juvenile populations housed within the CNMI's lone, collocated correctional facility.

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 (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 the Attorney General
02	Drug Court Division
03	Mental Health Court Docket
04	Family Court Division
05	Office of Adult Probation Supervision
06	Marshals Service Division
07	NMI Judiciary - Superior Court
08	Division of Youth Services
09	NMI Crime Stoppers
10	Karidat Social Services
11	Commonwealth Health Corporation
12	Division of Customs & Biosecurity
13	Department of Public Safety
14	Department of Corrections
15	Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR)
16	Juvenile Court

Sub-Grantees

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Rota Mayor's Office

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Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation

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CNMI Public School System

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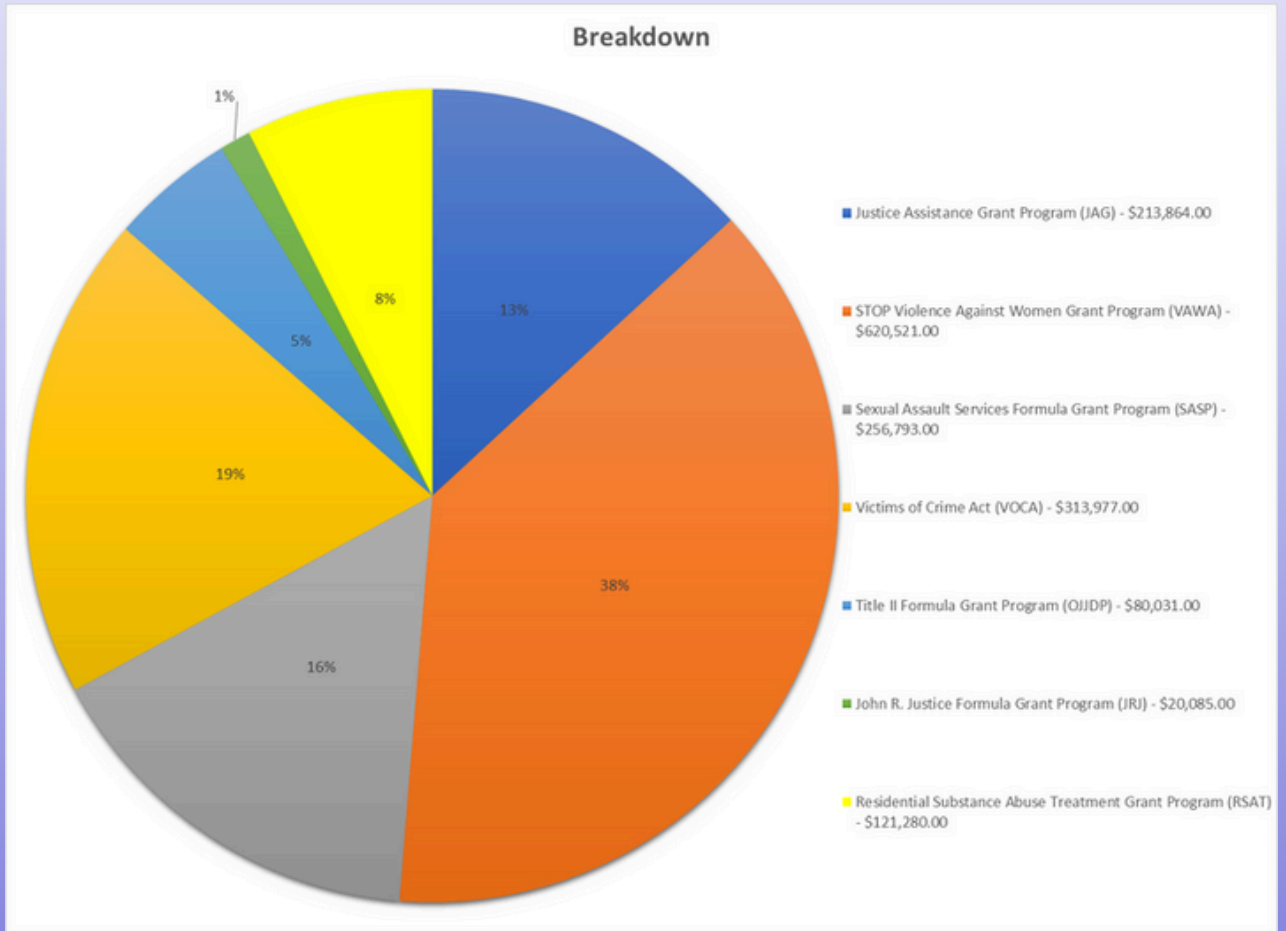
Office of Youth Affairs

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Natibu Sports Association

Finances

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



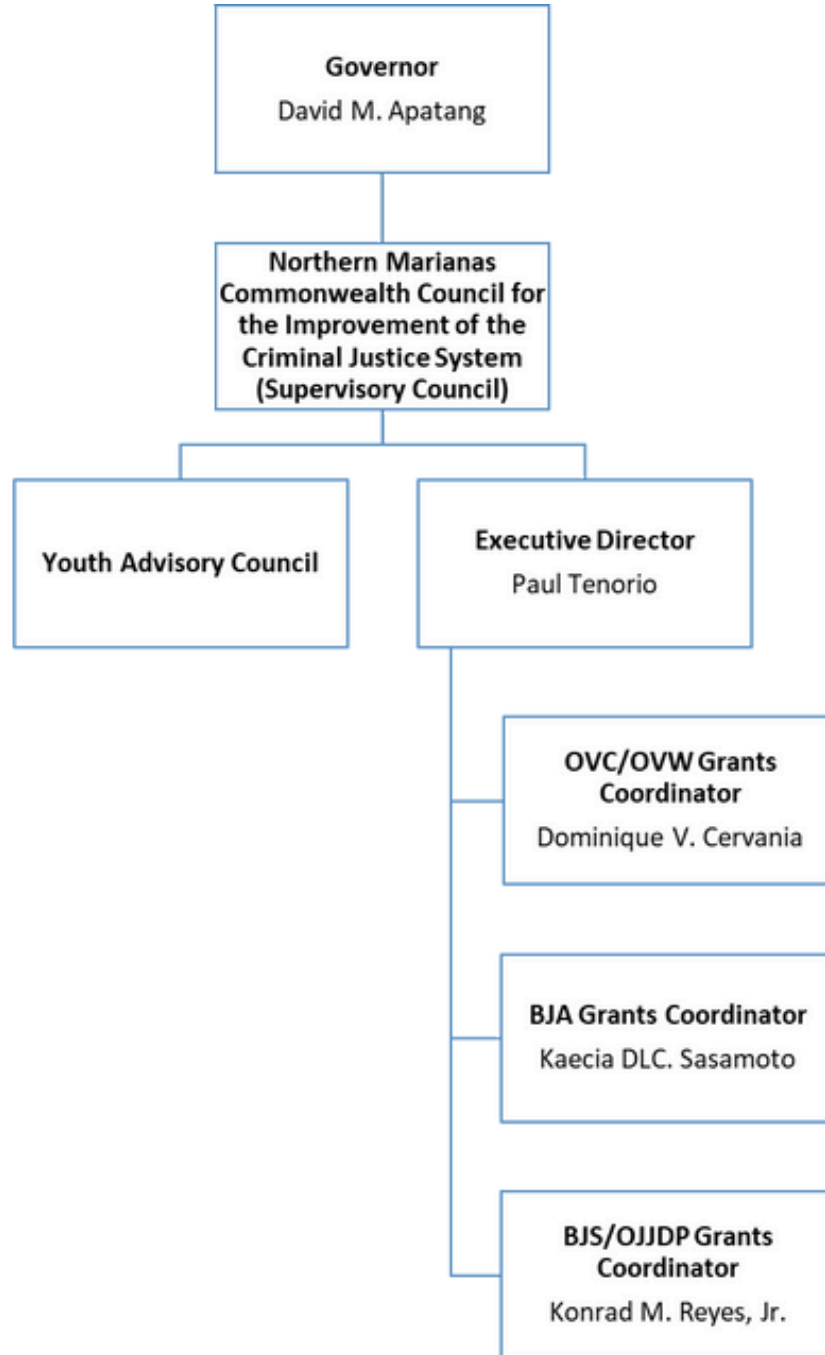
WHAT OUR MAIN EXPENSES ARE

→ PERSONNEL **\$188,109.00**

→ OPERATIONS **\$10,000.00**

→ UTILITIES **\$5,720.00**

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 CJPB by the US Department of Justice.

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 Program Coordinator Kaecia DLC. Sasamoto. 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.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Director and VAWA Program Coordinator participated in the Ending Violence Against Women International Conference. The SASP/VAWA Program Coordinator also attended the National Sexual Assault Conference. CJPA participated in the Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signings. CJPA attended the RSAT Graduation at the Department of Corrections. CJPA participated in the Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week Proclamation Signing. The Executive Director of CJPA also took part in the Office of Youth Affairs 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 Service Formula Grant Program (SASP), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Formula Grant Program. We are continuing efforts to implement the early phases of our FY24 National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grant projects, which aim to improve the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) by connecting data systems across all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in the CNMI. Currently, we are in the procurement phase of the NCHIP project, collaborating closely with legal and procurement teams to ensure timely progress within regulatory guidelines. Although the CJIS network was initiated in the early to mid-2000s, it never reached its full potential. Given the technological advances of the past two decades, we are dedicated to applying these technologies through the 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 the next year and beyond is to get the CJIS Network Infrastructure project up and running. 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 has been long overdue. Moving forward, our office aims to continue effective 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. Within the past year, our office has worked closely with the CJIS Subcommittee and our federal partners through numerous meetings, formulating a strategy for implementation that is not only timely and lawful but also well thought out.

CJPA is working to streamline and improve its processes and procedures in order to better support our sub-grantees and stakeholders. We constantly seek guidance from our federal partners to assist our subgrantees and emphasize continuous improvement through training to ensure our staff remain equipped to assist our grant beneficiaries and the community.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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