

2025 DCCA CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT



About the Department

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was created in 1978 with the signing of the Covenant to establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in political union with the United States of America. The DCCA is an executive branch agency, responsible to the Governor through the Secretary.

MISSION

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is charged with the oversight of CNMI functions in the areas of human and social services, historic and landmark conservation and preservation, activities to preserve Chamorro and Carolinian heritages and traditions, public arts and sports programming.

DIVISIONS

- Office of the Secretary
- Office on Aging
- Historic Preservation Office
- Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture
- Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission
- Child Care Development Fund
- Child Care Licensing Program
- Nutrition Assistance Program
- Division of Youth Services




DCCA's PROGRESS




COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS & CULTURE

- 44th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival
April 24-26, 2025 – Garapan Fishing Base
5,000 participants
- Art in the Park Revival
August 9, 2025 – Civic Center Park
300 Participants
- Art Program in Schools
30 participating Artists
4,500 students from K-12
- Art Program in Community Centers
10 participating artists
150 youths (After School Program)



DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

- # of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases: 816
- # of Child Abuse and Neglect Victims: 2,210
- # of Children/Youth Sheltered: 64
- # of Foster/Kinship Placements: 70
- # of Juveniles on Probation: 56
- # of Juveniles Incarcerated: 28
- # of Prevention-Direct Services: 1,871
- # of Prevention-Outreach Services: 1,140






NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



- Number of households receiving benefits in FY 2025: 5,560
- Number of Individual household members: 13,940
- Total benefits distributed: \$47,811,765

FFY 2025 Sun Bucks Program:

- Estimated number of students (K-12) – CNMI-wide: 11,000
- Total number Sun Bucks benefits distributed as of September 26, 2025: 10,825
- Total amount of Benefits Distributed: \$1,916,025.00 (as of September 26, 2025)

Community/Partner Events:

- 1. Workforce Investment Opportunity Agency: provide on-site training and job opportunities for NAP recipients.
- 2. CHCC Mobile Clinic Outreach: provide on-site preventive and primary care opportunities for NAP recipients.
- 3. Head Start Program: provide on-site enrollment information and enrollment.

OFFICE ON AGING

- Supportive Services: 272
- Preventive Health: 268
- Chore: 45
- SCSEP Unsubsidized Employment: 6
- Active Clients: Saipan - 167, Tinian - 46, Rota - 59
- Congregate Meals TIII-C1: Saipan - 41,082, Tinian - 11,316, Rota - 14,514
- Homebound Clients/Caregivers: Saipan - 423, Tinian - 41, Rota - 72
- Homebound Meals TIII-C2: Saipan - 104,058, Tinian - 10,086, Rota - 17,712
- Transportation: 66,912
- Elder Abuse Cases: 41
- Respite Care: 30
- Access Assistance: 890
- Counseling: 25



CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Children and Families Served as of Sept. 30, 2025:

- Total children served: 1,300

Breakdown by Island:

Saipan: 1212	Tinian: 41	Rota: 47
Served in Type of Provider:	Served in Type of Provider:	Served in Type of Provider:
License-Center based: _____	License-Center based: _____	Licensed-Center based: 0
License/L-Exempt Home Based: 95	License/L-Exempt Home Based: 33	Licensed-exempt Home based: 47

- Total Families Served: 768

Breakdown by Island:

Saipan: 728	Tinian: 16	Rota: 24
Served in type of Provider:	Served in Type of Provider:	Served in Type of Provider:
License-Center based: 687	License-Center based: 5	Licensed-Center based: 0
License/L-Exempt Home Based: 42	License/L-Exempt Home Based: 11	Licensed/L-exempt Home base 24

CCDF Providers:

License-Center based Providers: 21	License/L-Exempt Providers: Total 57
Saipan: 20	Saipan: 33
Tinian: 1	Tinian: 8
Rota: 0	Rota: 16



HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Significant Consultation Projects

- No Historic Properties Affected - 31
- Potential to Effect Historic Properties - 12
- Adverse Effect - 0
- No Adverse Effect - 17
- Hire Out Archaeological Firm - 0
- Consultation Ongoing - 1
- Consultation Revision/Amendment Needed - 4

Total: 68

- National Register Eligible - 12
- National Register Not Eligible - 26
- National Register Listed - 11



YUTU Disaster Grant Projects

- 10 buildings completed (1334, 1355-DOL, 1326-CNMI scholarship, 1354, 1339-DYS, 1310, 1312-DD Council, 1364-Veterans, 1337-DPW Energy, 1347-CCDF Subsidy).
- 9 contracts for 9 buildings renovation being routed.

Total project expense for 19 buildings out of 29 at \$1, 378, 000

Data as of September 22, 2025.

Licensed Child Care Services

Centers ¹	After-School Programs ²	Family Child Care Home ³	Group Child Care Home ⁴	Total
27	6	2	1	36

Enrollment

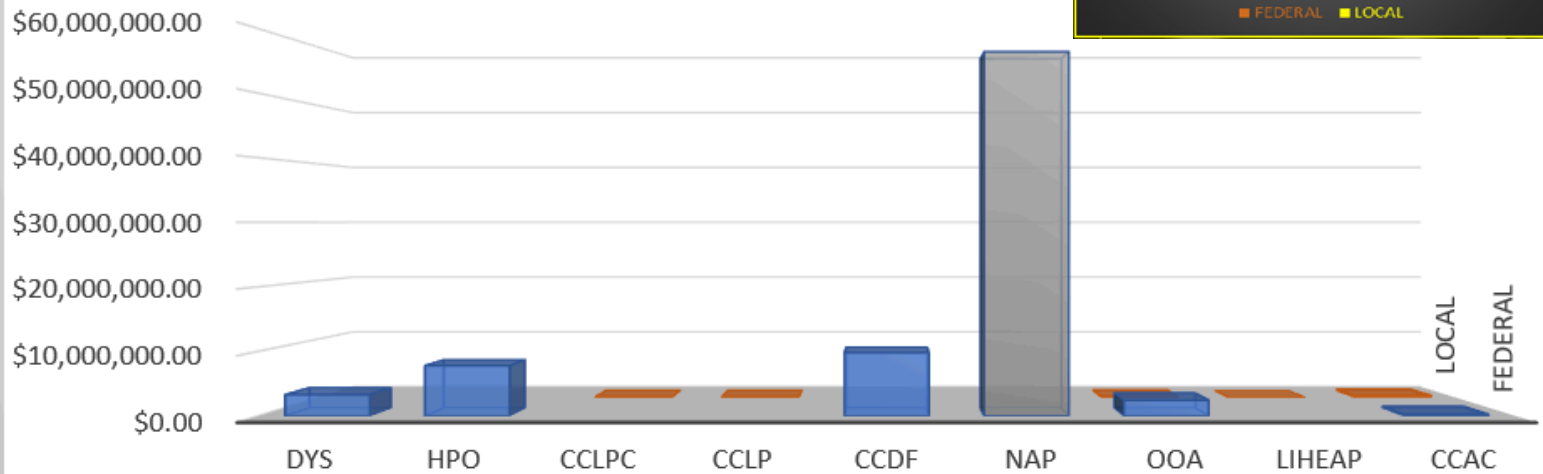
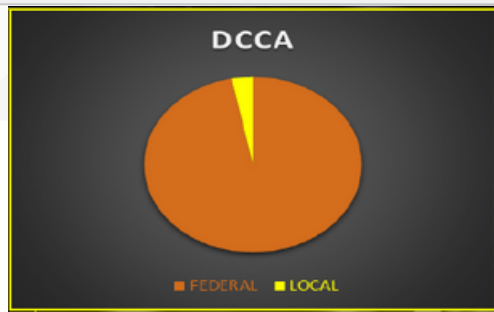
Infant/Toddler	Preschool	Before & After School	Total
335	358	832	1,525

Inspections

Announced	Unannounced	Total
44	36	80



DCCA BUDGET



FEDERAL LOCAL

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND FORMULA GRANT:

- 2021 - \$438,000
- 2022 - \$438,000
- 2023 - \$472,400
- 2024 - \$472,400

TOTAL: \$1,820,000

- DISASTER GRANT: \$6,000,000
- PERSONNEL: \$250,000
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: \$240,000
- INDIRECT COSTS: \$450,000
- RENOVATION: \$5,060,000



NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Budget:

- NAP BLOCK GRANT (FFY 2025) - \$56,397,000
- Administrative Costs - \$5,072,665.38 (10%) *Operation costs for all NAP Units: personnel, rental, utilities, travel, supplies, printing, equipment and indirect costs:
- Program Benefit Cost - \$51,324,334.61 (90%)
- Sun Bucks Program (FFY2025): \$2,243,619
- Administrative Costs - \$296,619.91 *CNMI was approved to waive the 50% matching requirement in FFY 2025
- Program Benefit Costs - \$1,947,000.00

OFFICE ON AGING

FY 2025 GENERAL FUNDS (LOCAL APPROPRIATION):

- Personnel: \$ 230,756.00 Operations: \$0

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)/ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING (ACL)

- Personnel: \$ 579,047
- Operations: \$ 887,171
- Indirect Costs: \$ 103,553

TOTAL U.S. DHHS/ACL: \$1,569,771.00

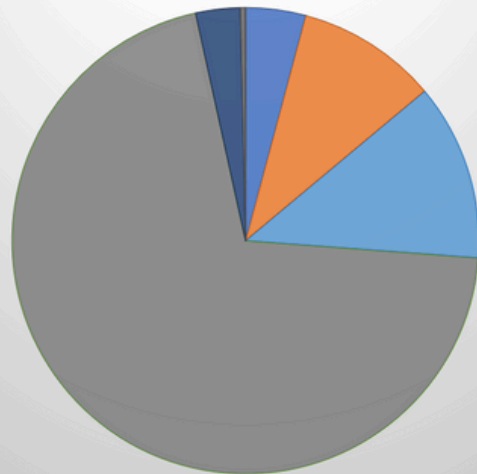
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)/SCSEP

- SCSEP: \$305,456
- GPMS-INFO TECH GRANT: \$92,897
- Operations: \$ 68,951 TOTAL: \$455,456
- Indirect Costs: \$ 33,896

TOTAL DOL: \$887,705



DCCA BUDGET



DYS HPO CCLPC CCLP CCDF NAP OOA LIHEAP CCAC

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

FY 2025 Funding Source

- General Funds: \$259,404.55
- Personnel: \$ 1,456,963.55 (38 FTEs)
- Federal Funds: \$2,480,107.80
- Operational: \$ 1,693,036.64
- Revolving Funds: \$589,393.75
- Indirect Cost: \$178,905.91

TOTAL: \$3,328,906.10



CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

CCDF Funds:

- Discretionary: \$ 7,520,609.00
- Mandatory - Regular: \$ 1,906,143.00
- American Relief Act: \$214,963.00
- Non-CCDF Fund/Foundation Funds
- New Venture Fund Grant: \$187,000.00
- Grand Total: \$9,828,715.00



COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS & CULTURE

- Local: \$376,100
- Federal: \$295,712

CHILDCARE LICENSING PROGRAM

- LOCAL: \$172,292

CHAMORRO-CAROLINIAN LANGUAGE POLICY COMMISSION

- LOCAL: \$172,857

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- LOCAL: \$56,865



DCCA's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

- Reach Higher, CNMI (CCDF's Quality Rating and Improvement System or QRIS)
- Trainings: 16,382 hours
- Technical Assistance Hours: 2,289 hours
- Star Levels Standing



Star Level	Count of Centers (Oct. 2024 to Apr. 2025)	Count of Centers (At the end of the Mar-Apr full QRIS observation block)	Count of Centers (At the end of the Aug-Sep full QRIS observation block)
Level 5	0	1	1
Level 4	0	1	3
Level 3	1	1	2
Level 2	6	4	4
Level 1	11	11	8
To be determined	0	3	3

(Twenty-seven rooms across six centers underwent a full QRIS observation during the fiscal year)

- Reach Higher, CNMI QRIS Check Ins/Observation Visits
- A total of 30 announced and 32 unannounced QRIS observation visits were completed this fiscal year for the following purposes: new center certification, ongoing center renewal certification, and check-in/mid-cycle visits.
- System of Support for Home Based providers include License and License Exempt Family, Friend, and Neighbor (L/LEFFN) Care.
- Total number of Home-Based providers supported by this initiative: 57

	Total Certified L/LE FFN Providers per island
Saipan	33
Rota	16
Tinian	8

- Total home visits and check-in/observations conducted: 191 visits
- A Summary of Trainings offered to home based providers: 171 hours
- For FY2025, providers completed a total of 171 hours of trainings
- Summary of Technical Assistance (TA) offered to home based providers: 356 technical hours

CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM

- The updated Child Care Licensing Program Administrative Code has been completed and fully implemented.
- The CCLP/CCDF Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan has been completed and fully implemented.



COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS & CULTURE

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

- Reviewed and processed 471 HPO clearances on all One-Start permits; 425 on Saipan, 11 on Tinian, 35 on Rota.
- Revised and processed 68 of the 106 projects
- Completed review for Phase I of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School Project.
- Completed the section 106 review for WSR building project
- Completed research design for Da'ok Academy & FMS Middle School
- HPO permitted the Japan Ministry of Health and Welfare group, namely JARRWC in recovering Japanese WWII remains from several areas identified in Tinian and Saipan
- Repatriation of CNMI and Bishop Museum – Hans Hornbostel Collection



MOVING FORWARD...

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

For FY 2026, the DCCA DYS looks forward to securing additional grant opportunities to provide support for evidence-based support programs, data tracking, broadband opportunities, professional development and additional FTEs for some DYS programs that have high case management demands.



NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To implement the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) System to enhance seamless service delivery to the NAP recipients for improvement of overall NAP operations.

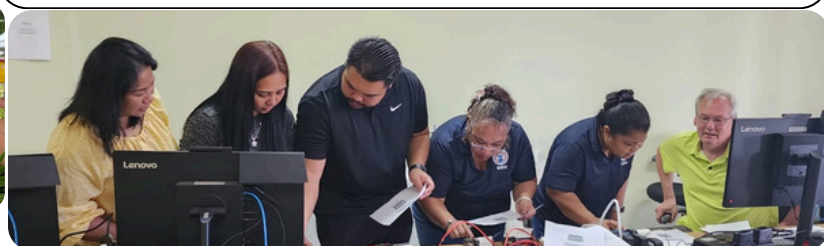


CHALLENGES...

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Limited staff resources continue to be a challenge:

1. The heavy workload for the upcoming implementation of the EBT system. Because of the time and day difference, this includes working evenings, early mornings, and weekend hours.
2. The workload for the Certification Unit as Eligibility Workers continue to work on new, ongoing, and recertification applications.
3. During issuance, the staffing is limited as cashiers must be certified.



CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM

- The Child Care Licensing Program lacks funding to send its Safety Inspectors to the island of Tinian to conduct announced and unannounced onsite inspections on all licensed centers and family child care homes. As a result, the licensing office conducts remote inspections instead.
- Funding is not available for CCLP professional development, certification, and credentialing.
- The program lacks funding to pay for trash hauling and yard services.
- The program lacks funding for operations and supplies.



COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS & CULTURE

- Facility for Exhibits and Other Programs (Art Gallery)
- Office Space
- Phone lines and Internet

