



# 2025 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

## OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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### MISSION

The CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC) was established to allow the CNMI government, its elected officials and all agencies to assemble and engage in dialogue with regards to federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, appropriations, advances, direct federal development, and other federal funding sources for the CNMI.

The CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse holds the scope of influence for all federal programs and aid that have direct and indirect effect on the CNMI as stated in Public Law 19-49 and in relation to Presidential Executive Order 12371.

In 2009, Public Law 16-48 created the Office of Grants Management. The law was amended in 2016 under Public Law 19-49 to provide more oversight and responsibilities over federal grant assistance in the CNMI government. The repurposed office was renamed the CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse and assumed the following responsibilities:

- A. The CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC) was established to allow the CNMI government, its elected officials and all agencies to assemble and engage in dialogue with regards to federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, appropriations, advances, direct federal development and other federal funding sources for the CNMI.
- B. The CNMI OGM holds the scope of influence for all federal programs and aid that have a direct and indirect effect on the CNMI as stated in Public Law 19-49 and in relation to Presidential Executive Order 12372.
- C. Administer the initiation, coordination and review process of all governmental activities within the government of the CNMI involving federal assistance;
- D. Ensure that federal grant proposals are in accordance with plans, policies, programs, objectives, and procedures of the government of the CNMI. A stamp of approval shall signify concurrence from the OGM-SC;
- E. Ensure that proposed government projects for which federal financial assistance is sought are fiscally and environmentally sound and are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws;
- F. Ensure that the government of the CNMI complies with all applicable federal laws relating to federal financial assistance and that there exists sound tracking, management, and financial accountability for all federal programs awarded to the government of the CNMI;
- G. Perform cost analysis on all federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, advances, direct federal development or other federal funding for the financial impact on the government of the CNMI'S general fund or special funds used to fund the local matching requirement as prescribed by federal law;
- H. Conduct activities for the acquisition of federal grants and when possible, coordinate to full extent the activities and objectives of an approved grant award. This office will also have the capacity to award sub-grants; and
- I. Conduct activities directly related to indirect cost associated with federal assistance.

### FROM THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR

*As we close Fiscal Year 2025, I am proud to highlight the progress, partnerships, and community impact achieved through the collective efforts of the Office of Grants Management (OGM) and our many collaborators. This year reflected our ongoing commitment to effective resource management, equitable grant delivery, and evidence-based planning to strengthen the Commonwealth's development goals. By expanding our technical assistance and strategic support, OGM helped organizations navigate complex grant processes and ensure programs were implemented efficiently and responsibly.*

*Throughout the year, OGM supported more than 75 technical assistance grants that contributed to community-focused initiatives such as the 5-1-1 Recycling Redemption Program, the Taste of the Marianas Festival, the 12th Annual Palau Pacific Mini Games, the Liberation Day Celebrations, and the revitalization of the Garapan Street Market. We also emphasized the maintenance and sustainability of public infrastructure, completing projects like the Managaha Pier Railing, Jones Beach Restroom renovation, and the Marpi Public Cemetery opening—each designed to enhance public spaces and preserve community assets for future generations.*

*Energy resilience remained a top priority. In partnership with the Division of Energy, OGM developed over a dozen solar photovoltaic project proposals to power critical infrastructure, including the Saipan International Airport, CHCC, and the Judicial Building. Additional renewable energy initiatives were implemented on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with solar PV installations at the Kagman Water Wells, the Rota Aging Center, and the Executive Office Building. These projects, along with the CARES Program's installation of residential solar systems on Rota, demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, energy independence, and long-term cost savings for our communities.*

*We also continued expanding recreational and environmental programs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, supporting projects such as the Pona Point Cliff Fishing Pavilion, Pakpak San Antonio Beach Park, and Koblerville Playground Park, with future developments planned for Tinian. Another major milestone was the launch of the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will replace more than 40 government fleet vehicles with electric models to support cleaner, more efficient transportation. As we move into FY2026, OGM will continue refining its systems, strengthening accountability, and advancing projects that deliver measurable, lasting benefits to the people of the Commonwealth.*

EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Awarded Grants

TYPE OF PROJECTS: **TAP** (Technical Assistance Program), **SCORP** (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan), **EIC** (Energizing Insular Communities), **MAP** (Maintenance Assistance Program), and **LWCF** (Land-Water Conservation Fund).  
**EIC project awards are forthcoming or by December 2025.**

Grantor	Title	Amount
1 US EPA	IRA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program	\$ 48,690,688.00
2 US DOI	BIL DPL Managaha Island Erosion Impact Study	\$ 560,43.00
3 US DOI	BIL DLNR Invasive Species Coordination	\$ 285,934.46
4 US DOI	BIL DLNR Biosecurity Capacity Building	\$ 75,000.00
5 US DOI	LWCF CNMI State Agency Administrative Grant Program	\$ 220,889.96
6 US DOE	Energy Energy Revolving Fund	\$ 556,460.00
7 US DOI	LWCF Tinian Skate Park	\$ 255,689.00
8 US DOI	LWCF Tinian Lookout Point	\$ 358,36.00
9 US DOI	LWCF Kagman II Basketball Court & Park Improvement	\$ 1,263,045.00
10 US DOE	Energy NMI Energy Code Update & Zero Energy Code Adoption	\$ 4,080,866.00
11 US DOE	Energy State Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grant (TREC)	\$ 860,940.00
12 NFWF	Other CNMI Inter-Island Resiliency & Little Fire Ants Hotspot	\$ 1,250,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 58,458,311.45</b>



### ENERGIZING OF 60KW ROOFTOP SOLAR PV SYSTEM *at the PEDRO P. TENORIO MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER*

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has successfully launched the government's first solar photovoltaic (PV) interconnection under its new non-net-metering policy, marking a major milestone in the CNMI's transition toward renewable energy. On August 22, 2025, CUC energized a 60kW rooftop solar system at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Energizing Insular Communities Program. The project is expected to significantly reduce the center's monthly \$2,300 electricity costs and will later include a battery energy storage system for nighttime power use. Governor David M. Apatang commended the collaboration among CUC, the Office of Grants Management, and federal partners, emphasizing that energy savings directly support essential community services. Additional interconnections are underway at the Executive Building in Capitol Hill, Kagman Water Wells, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Aging Center, reinforcing the CNMI's commitment to cost efficiency, energy resilience, and long-term sustainability.



### (ROTA) PONA POINT CLIFF FISHING PARK

On October 10, 2025, the Office of the Mayor of Rota, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the Office of Grants Management, and Obsidian Construction Company, celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Pona Point Cliff Fishing Park Pavilion. Funded under the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the National Park Service (Federal Award No. P22APO1925-00), this project began with its groundbreaking in March and reached completion seven months later. The newly developed park now features a pavilion equipped with solar lighting and outlets, a cliffside railing walkway, restrooms, and a water catchment system—providing residents and visitors a safe and scenic space for recreation, picnics, and cliff-line fishing. The site's tranquil surroundings offer a place for reflection and enjoyment, and the community is encouraged to help preserve its cleanliness and natural beauty. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the Office of Grants Management, and Obsidian Construction for their partnership and dedication, as well as to the Rota Mayor's Office and Marianas Visitors Authority staff for their invaluable support. Na' Gatbo Luta!

# FY2025 Subgrant Support by OGM for Community-Based Events and Initiatives in the CNMI

Vendor	Donation Date	Amount
1 Donation To Tinian Municipal Treasurer For The Agriculture Fair	10/11/2024	\$ 5,000.00
2 Donation To Tinian Municipal Treasurer For The Ginepten Ha'Anen	10/11/2024	\$ 10,000.00
3 Donation To National Office Supply-SPN For The Toys For Tots	11/20/2024	\$ 592.18
4 Donation To Marianas Racing Association For The Turkey Cross 2024	11/21/2024	\$ 5,000.00
5 Donation To J.C. Tenorio Enterprises For The Toys For Tots	12/03/2024	\$ 514.78
6 Donation To Marianas Visitors Authority For The 26Th Taste Of The Marianas	04/15/2025	\$ 50,000.00
7 Donation To Cnmi Arts & Culture For The Flame Tree Arts Festival	04/24/2025	\$ 10,000.00
8 Donation To Fsm Recycling Corporation For The Recycling Redemption Services	04/24/2025	\$ 50,000.00
9 Donation To Marianas Visitors Authority For The Taste Of The Marianas Donation	04/24/2025	\$ 50,100.00
10 Donation To Cnmi Arts & Culture For The Garapan Street Market	04/30/2025	\$ 7,500.00
11 Donation To Northern Marianas Sports Association For The 2025 Palau Pacific Mini Games	04/30/2025	\$ 30,000.00
12 Donation To Rota Municipal Treasurer For The Rota Taste Of The Marianas	05/15/2025	\$ 18,000.00
13 Donation To Tinian Municipal Treasurer For The Tinian Taste Of The Marianas	05/15/2025	\$ 5,000.00
14 Donation To Tinian Municipal Treasurer For The Tinian Taste Of The Marianas	05/15/2025	\$ 9,749.00
15 Donation To Cnmi Arts & Culture For The Garapan Street Market	05/21/2025	\$ 15,000.00
16 Donation To Northern Marianas Sports Association For The 2025 Palau Pacific Mini Games	05/21/2025	\$ 20,000.00
17 Donation To Saipan Little League Baseball Inc For The Saipan Little League	05/30/2025	\$ 20,000.00
18 Donation To Saipan Fishermen's Association For The 41St Annual Saipan Fishing Derby	05/30/2025	\$ 10,000.00
19 Donation To Liberation Day Committee For The 79Th Liberation Day Committee	06/06/2025	\$ 50,000.00
20 Donation To Tinian Municipal Treasurer For The Tinian Fishing Tournament	06/11/2025	\$ 1,000.00
21 Donation To Saipan Agricultural Fair Association For The 38Th Saipan Agriculture Annual Fair	06/11/2025	\$ 10,000.00
22 Donation To Fsm Recycling Corporation For The Recycling Redemption Services	06/11/2025	\$ 33,000.00
23 Donation To F.Atalig For The F.Atalig/Co#32400307 Dlnr-Doa	07/03/2025	\$ (4,500.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 405,955.96</b>

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Office of Grants Management (OGM) facilitated and administered sub-grant funding to support a range of high-impact events and initiatives across the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). These appropriations were authorized by former Governor Arnold I. Palacios and targeted organizations and projects with demonstrated community benefit and economic or cultural impact.

The majority of sub-grant applications focused on financial assistance to support operational costs such as airfare, logistics, venue rentals, artist fees, prize disbursements, and other related expenditures. These events and initiatives were

vetted and deemed strategically necessary to promote cultural identity, enhance tourism, support local talent, and stimulate broader community engagement.

While these grants provided critical support, the Office of the Governor often refrained from publicizing awards via traditional media or social platforms to mitigate an influx of follow-on requests. Given the finite resources within the Governor's discretionary account, funding was reserved for events aligned with key priorities.

The total funding allocation for FY2025 amounted to **\$405,955.96**



## Taste of the Marianas:

One of MVA's flagship tourism events, the Taste of the Marianas benefited significantly from OGM's financial intervention. Due to limited Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenue, MVA faced challenges in executing the event. The funding helped sustain and scale the festival, which attracted local residents, vendors, and off-island tourists. In parallel, the Garapan Street Market—supported through similar funding—provided an ongoing platform for local vendors, entertainers, and artists, enriching CNMI's nightlife economy.



## 2025 Pacific Mini Games – Palau:

OGM awarded a \$50,000 sub-grant to the Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA) to support Team Marianas' participation in the 12th Pacific Mini Games. The delegation included 161 athletes and support staff. Funding covered airfare, accommodation, meals, and logistical support. Team Marianas delivered a strong performance, finishing 6th overall among 23 participating nations with a total of 31 medals: 10 gold, 8 silver, and 13 bronze. Notably, the swimming, wrestling, and track & field teams led the medal haul.



## OGM Contributes \$50,000 to Support 2025 Liberation Day Festivities

The Office of Grants Management (OGM), under the Office of the Governor, proudly contributed \$50,000 to support this year's Liberation Day Festivities, held at the Susupe Civic Center. This annual celebration commemorates a significant chapter in the history of the Marianas and brings together the community in remembrance and unity.

The donated funds were allocated toward key logistical needs, including site preparation and event coordination, as well as artist performance fees, fireworks displays, and other essential activities that ensured the event's success. OGM's support helped enhance the quality and reach of this year's festivities, providing a safe, vibrant, and meaningful experience for residents and visitors alike.

The Office of the Governor and OGM remain committed to supporting cultural and historical events that foster community pride and preserve the rich heritage of the Marianas.



## 5-1-1 Recycling Redemption Initiative (Phase II):

This initiative was launched to address environmental sustainability and community cleanliness, particularly in high-traffic tourist areas. The program incentivized recycling with redemption rates of \$0.05 for aluminum cans and \$0.01 for plastic and glass beverage bottles. Within three months, over 50 tons of aluminum were collected and exported to South Korea for processing. The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) partnered in the implementation. A proposed bill currently under legislative review seeks to institutionalize the program under DPW, introducing a 10-cent deposit system to further support operations and reward participation. Additionally, OGM and DPW jointly submitted a FY2025 Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grant request to the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) to expand the initiative.

## Other Identified Assurances

In addition, the Office of Grants Management (OGM) participated in the annual Christmas Village festivities held at Capitol Hill and the Multi-Purpose Center by providing financial support for event infrastructure, including lighting, decorations, and logistical coordination, to enhance the holiday atmosphere across the Marianas. An estimated \$25,000 was allocated to support this initiative.

OGM also collaborated with the Public Service Recognition Week Committee and the Labor Day Committee to facilitate recognition efforts for government employees. These efforts included the disbursement of incentive checks to acknowledge the dedication and contributions of public sector personnel throughout the year. Approximately \$42,000 was allocated in support of these employee recognition programs. This activity was held in August 2024 in FY2024.

## Reflections and Recommendations

OGM is proud to have played a pivotal role in enabling the successful execution of these events and programs. However, the office emphasizes that subgrant support should not be considered the primary funding mechanism for recurring or large-scale events. Agencies, non-profits, and municipal entities are encouraged to pursue diversified funding strategies—including federal grants, sponsorships, and private-sector partnerships—to reduce dependency on discretionary funds.

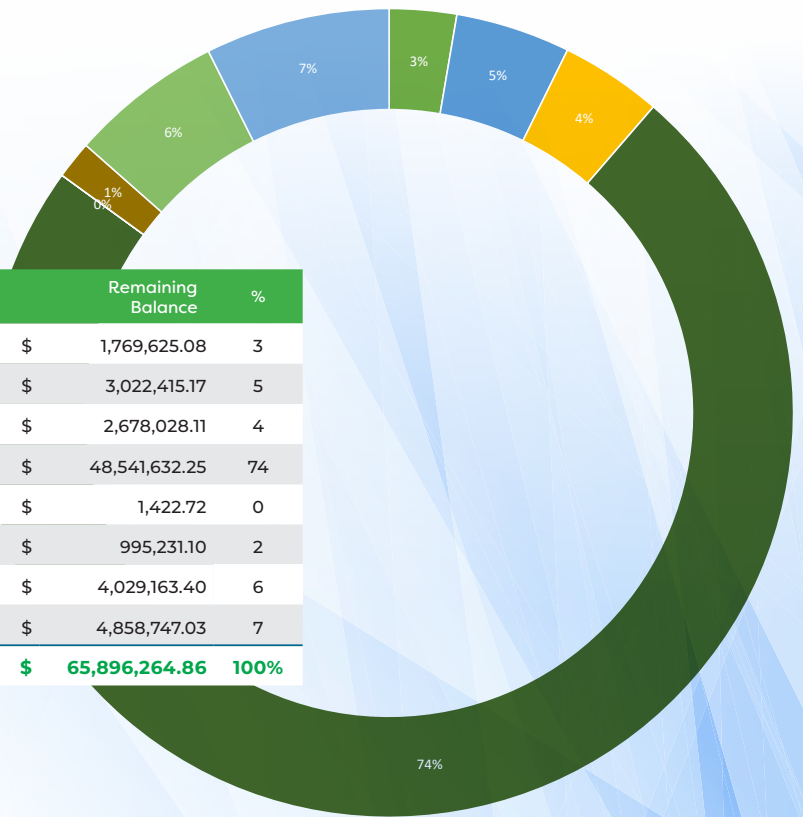
Subgrant allocations are sourced, in part, from OGM's Indirect Cost Reimbursements as authorized by Public Law 19-49, and while they serve as a valuable tool for community development, sustainable long-term planning is essential for future resilience and program continuity.

# FINANCES

## Federal Grant Summary by Category (OGM's Holdings)

Updated as of OCTOBER 2025

Category	Number of Grants	Grant Amount	Actuals (Expense)	Remaining Balance	%
BECQ	11	\$ 1,962,337.00	\$ 192,711.92	\$ 1,769,625.08	3
CUC	11	\$ 3,827,393.00	\$ 804,977.83	\$ 3,022,415.17	5
EIC	20	\$ 7,526,534.15	\$ 4,599,948.29	\$ 2,678,028.11	4
EPA	1	\$ 48,690,688.00	\$ 142,377.75	\$ 48,541,632.25	74
IRA	1	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 498,577.28	\$ 1,422.72	0
MAP	10	\$ 2,611,765.10	\$ 1,616,533.97	\$ 995,231.10	2
SCORP	10	\$ 7,823,283.90	\$ 1,514,230.96	\$ 4,029,163.40	6
TAP	60	\$ 16,589,189.31	\$ 10,642,259.38	\$ 4,858,747.03	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>\$ 89,531,190.46</b>	<b>\$ 20,011,617.38</b>	<b>\$ 65,896,264.86</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Grant Summary by Project Type

Updated as of OCTOBER 2025

Category	SUM OF Grant Amount	SUM OF Encumbrances	SUM OF Remaining Balance	%
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 9,300,279.90	\$ 2,020,721.43	\$ 5,001,866.90	8
EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION	\$ 3,229,020.10	\$ 1,928,042.50	\$ 884,779.44	1
FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$ 1,832,214.00	\$ 481,123.27	\$ 1,350,630.23	2
1FINANCE81	\$ 5,638,307.00	\$ 4,449,310.93	\$ 676,342.10	1
6GRANTS ASSISTANCE	\$ 1,123,193.00	\$ 663,135.84	\$ 392,359.16	1
PLANNING- PROGRAMMATIC	\$ 59,386,098.31	\$ 5,824,482.12	\$ 53,461,567.92	81
SOLAR/ ENERGY	\$ 8,836,330.15	\$ 4,599,948.29	\$ 3,987,824.11	6
TRAINING	\$ 185,748.00	\$ 44,853.00	\$ 140,895.00	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 89,531,190.46</b>	<b>\$ 20,011,617.38</b>	<b>\$ 65,896,264.86</b>	<b>100%</b>



# FINANCES

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Office of Grants Management (OGM) expended over \$800,000, primarily attributed to personnel salaries and community-based contributions or donations approved by the Governor for events of island-wide significance. The office also received funding assistance requests for FEMA-related projects, specifically to cover the 10% local match requirement in certain Project Worksheets. Notable requests included \$55,000 for the Tinian Harbor Renovation Project and \$20,000 for the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) Substation A&E Services.

Historically, OGM has received approximately \$1.3 million annually in indirect cost reimbursements, representing a 35% share. However, FY2025 saw a significant reduction due to the nature of most federally funded projects being focused on construction and equipment acquisition—activities from which indirect costs cannot be recovered under current federal guidelines. Additionally, programmatic and project-based activities experienced a slowdown as internal capacity was redirected toward construction oversight and compliance requirements, such as archaeological mitigation and architectural re-design.

It is important to emphasize that under MEMO 2025-087, issued in November 22, 2024, all purchase orders, contracts, and financial disbursements require the Governor’s concurrence prior to execution. While this added layer of internal control ensures alignment with administration priorities, it has significantly delayed the office’s operational efficiency. In several instances, delays in receiving concurrence have led to disapprovals by the Division of Financial Services, necessitating retroactive ratifications despite timely initial submissions. Compounding these challenges, the Department of Finance has begun decentralizing key processes, including the federal drawdown mechanism. OGM is now responsible for initiating drawdowns and coordinating directly with both the granting agency and the Division of Treasury to ensure timely vendor payments. This shift has placed additional burdens on OGM’s already limited staffing resources.

From a macroeconomic perspective, the Commonwealth continues to experience a sluggish economic recovery, largely due to reduced tourism, limited airlift capacity, regional inflation, and broader market fluctuations. In light of these challenges, OGM recommends aggressively pursuing federal grant opportunities to mitigate the local economic downturn. The potential for workforce reductions, furloughs, and other cost-saving measures looms in FY2026 as the government works to align expenditures with declining revenues.

To strengthen its financial position, OGM is considering updating its indirect cost rate to the Uniform Guidance’s de minimis rate of 15%, as opposed to the currently negotiated low rate of 7.5%. This adjustment would effectively double indirect cost reimbursements and increase the 65% portion contributed to the General Fund.

In FY2025, OGM supported several small agencies with operational expenses—including fuel, communication services, supplies, and other essential needs—at the direction of the Governor. However, processing these transactions with a limited workforce has adversely affected the office’s ability to efficiently manage its core responsibilities, particularly the administration of federal grants.

OGM respectfully reminds partner agencies that it does not have unrestricted funding available to continuously support daily operational needs. Agencies are encouraged to explore alternative funding sources, collaborate inter-agency, and engage with members of the Legislature for additional support, rather than relying solely on OGM for financial assistance. The cumulative effect of continuous external requests is straining internal capacity and hindering performance.

Looking ahead, OGM remains committed to executing its federal grants effectively and will continue working with the Department of Finance and the Division of Procurement Services to ensure timely processing of required documents, thereby minimizing the risk of returning unspent federal funds. Additional training and technical assistance initiatives are planned to help lagging agencies accelerate grant implementation and compliance.

## Office of Grants Management Expenses by Category (PL 19-49)

Based on expenditures over 1 percent.  
Updated as of OCTOBER 2025

Category	Total Expenses	%
WAGES & SALARIES	\$ 603,987.08	34%
CONTRIBUTIONS / DONATIONS	\$ 405,955.96	23%
FOOD ITEMS	\$ 172,104.56	10%
TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ 92,716.35	5%
OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 50,738.54	3%
FREIGHT AND HANDLING	\$ 42,603.27	2%
HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM	\$ 38,762.60	2%
FICA CONTRIBUTION	\$ 37,743.20	2%
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	\$ 36,228.98	2%
HOLIDAY PAY	\$ 33,388.62	2%
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 31,603.35	2%
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 30,461.00	2%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 24,886.00	1%
FUEL & LUBRICATE	\$ 21,686.90	1%
OTHERS*	\$ 129,125.55	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,751,991.96</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Others: VEHICLES, CASH AWARD, FREIGHT AND HANDLING, PROJECT INSPECTION, ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING, PERSONNEL, TRAINING COSTS, FUEL & LUBRICATE, PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPIING, FOOD ITEMS, COMMUNICATIONS, ADVERTISING, CLEANING SERVICES, OFFICE SUPPLIES, RENTAL-OTHERS, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, RENTAL-OFFICE EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY EQUIP, FURNITURE & FIXTURES, OTHER EXPENSES, CAPITAL ASSETS

## Looking Ahead and FY 2026 Strategic Focus

In Fiscal Year 2025, the CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC) made considerable progress in advancing the Commonwealth's grants infrastructure and strengthening agency readiness for federal funding. Among the most significant accomplishments was the successful launch of the CNMI's inaugural Grant Certification Program. Conducted in partnership with Management Concepts, this training equipped over 40 government personnel from 15 agencies with essential skills in grant compliance, budgeting, reporting, and financial oversight. The program marks a foundational step toward professionalizing grants management across the CNMI government.

In addition to training, OGM-SC continued implementation of the Federal Grants Enhancement Program with support from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). This initiative entered its second year with a strong emphasis on providing technical assistance and proposal development support across executive line agencies. By reinforcing the capacity of these agencies, the program has improved CNMI's ability to identify, compete for, and manage federal grants effectively.

OGM-SC also played a central coordinating role in infrastructure-related efforts, particularly through its oversight of the street addressing and home numbering project on Tinian and Rota. This project, supported by TAP funding, is critical for strengthening geographic information systems, supporting emergency response, and modernizing the delivery of public services in underserved communities.

Collaboration was a defining feature of OGM-SC's approach in FY 2025. The office worked closely with central and municipal agencies to align local priorities with federal funding streams, especially under the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP), and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) grants. This inter-agency engagement contributed to more cohesive and strategically aligned proposals.

Looking ahead to FY 2026, OGM-SC will deepen its focus on building advanced capacity in grants management. Following the success of the initial certification course, new training programs will be developed for intermediate and advanced levels. The office also plans to expand its outreach to include government staff in Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands, as well as autonomous agencies such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.

OGM-SC will continue scaling the Federal Grants Enhancement Program by embedding technical assistance more formally into the grants workflow. Plans are underway to establish grant liaisons across departments, enhance pre-award services such as proposal review, and support post-award compliance and reporting. These measures aim to ensure that CNMI agencies are not only competitive in securing funding but also successful in executing their programs in accordance with federal requirements.

Technology and modernization will also be at the forefront. In addition to advancing the address mapping project, OGM-SC will explore the feasibility of a centralized digital portal for grants management. Such a system would improve efficiency by enabling real-time tracking of applications, deadlines, compliance, and outcomes.

Strategic alignment remains a priority for FY 2026. The office will begin drafting a Commonwealth-wide Grants Strategy that ensures funding pursuits are connected to broader policy goals, including infrastructure modernization, broadband expansion, energy resilience, healthcare access, and climate adaptation. Coordination with planning bodies and sustainability task forces will help identify high-impact opportunities that reflect the Commonwealth's long-term development agenda.

Equally important will be the enhancement of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems. OGM-SC will work to strengthen post-award oversight through improved performance metrics, compliance monitoring tools, and a proposed grants performance dashboard that provides leadership with timely insights into funding outcomes and agency progress.

To ensure a continuous and competitive funding pipeline, OGM-SC will maintain proactive engagement with the Office of Insular Affairs and other federal partners. This includes supporting agencies in identifying relevant grant opportunities and developing high-quality proposals for programs administered by federal departments such as USDA, DOE, FEMA, and NOAA.

The Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse enters FY 2026 with a clear vision: to build a modern, responsive, and strategic grants infrastructure that empowers CNMI agencies to secure and sustain the resources needed for a more resilient and prosperous future. With the groundwork laid in FY 2025, the Office is well positioned to drive even greater progress in the year ahead.



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