



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FY 2025

THE CNMI OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION is a federally funded government agency that assists individuals with disabilities in gaining skills and resources necessary to obtain, maintain and advance in employment, as well as to develop long-term career opportunities.

Mission:

OUR MISSION is to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the CNMI.

Values:

WE VALUE the rights, worth and dignity of persons with disabilities. We value all staff, their individual talents, unique abilities and contributions to our mission. We value participatory leadership and management at all levels. We value resources sufficient to enable partnerships that support our mission.

Visions:

OUR VISION is that individuals with disabilities are employed in a competitive and integrated work settings, are empowered to make qualified decision informed choices, and are economically self-sufficient.

QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE

- CNMI OVR Programs and Services
- Consumer Data Report
- Fiscal Data Report
- Forecast of future challenges and economic outlook

CNMI OVR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM (PRE-ETS)

The Pre-Employment Transition Services Program serves as a guiding map to discover new skills to prepare for success after high school.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Between the ages 16-21 years old
- A student enrolled in school or a post-secondary institution (college or the trades)
- Receiving special education services (IEP) or related services (504 Plan) or, a student with disability (SWD) for purposes of Section 504 under the Rehabilitation Act

Required Activities:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Counseling on Postsecondary Education Opportunities
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy

INDEPENDENT LIVING OLDER BLIND PROGRAM (ILOB)

The ILOB Program is a federally funded program that assists a blind/visually impaired person to be as independent as possible. Eligibility Criteria:

- 55 years or older
- Unemployed, retired, or unable to gain employment
- Corrected vision acuity of 20/60 or worse in the better eye
- U.S. citizen or Green Card Holder of at least 5 years.

BASIC SUPPORT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (BS/SE)

The Basic Support/Supported Employment Program aims to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain the skills and resources needed for employment, sustain employment and develop a career.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Presence of a physical or mental disability
- Disability results in a substantial impediment to employment
- Requires VR services to achieve competitive integrated employment
- U.S. Citizen or Green Card holder for 5+ years

Services:

- Vocational counseling & guidance
- Job search & job placement assistance
- Work Experience Training
- On the Job Training
- Post Secondary Educational Opportunities
- Assistive Technology (e.g. hearing aids, low vision aids, mobility aids, etc.)
- Transportation
- Job Coach Services
- Personal Assistance Services

Services:

- Prescription Glasses
- Visual Aids (Magnifier)
- Assistive Technology Device Training
- Talking watch
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Cane
- Walker

Note: Services are individualized and must be required for consumers to achieve their job/career goal.

FEDERAL & STATE BUDGETS

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Performance Period: 10/01/24 to 9/30/25

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 1,878,434.00

EXPENSES: \$1,309,996.00

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

**A. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
Title I – Basic Support Program (Requires State match of 21.3%)**

	Total Funds	Expenses
FY 2024 - Carry-over	620,378.00	620,378.00
FY 2025 - Grant Awarded	1,050,727.00	537,580.00

Breakdown of Expenses

Administration & Operations	325,864.00
Counseling & Guidance	438,599.00
State Rehabilitation Council	12,482.00
Case Services	
• Employment Goals	176,949.00
• Pre-ETS	204,064.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,157,958.00

Title VII-A – Independent Living/Older Blind

	Total Funds	Expenses
FY 2024 - Carry-over	39,939.00	35,382.00
FY 2025 - Grant Awarded	40,000.00	873.00

Breakdown of Expenses

Personnel	
• Staff salary/ILOB activities	25,047.00
Case Services	11,208.00

B. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living

• Title VII-B – Independent Living Services

	Total Funds	Expenses
FY 2024 Carry-Over	10,802.00	10,802.00
FY 2025 – Grant Awarded	31,359.00	20,519.00

Breakdown of Expenses

Statewide Independent Living Council	11,558.00
Consumers' IL core services	19,763.00

C. CNMI State Funds: \$85,229.00 Expenses: \$84,462.00

Breakdown of Expenses

Office Operation activities	46,021.00
Case Services	38,441.00

CONSUMER DATA

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Performance Period: 10/01/24 to 9/30/25

Basic Support/Supported Employment (BS/SE), Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), and Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Consumer Data

Basic Support/Supported Employment (BS/SE) Caseload: 250
*New Applicants: 92

Eligible: 62
Ineligible: 20
Closed-Successfully Rehabilitated: 11
Closed-Other Reasons after IPE Initiated: 21
Closed-Other Reasons No IPE Services: 3

ISLAND

Saipan: 217
Tinian: 9
Rota: 24

ETHNICITY

Chamorro: 133
Filipino: 59
Carolinian: 20
Chuukese: 10
Palauan: 9
Other: 19

Age (at time of application)

16-21 years: 118
22-45 years: 64
46-60 years: 34
61-75 years: 29
Over 75 years: 5

Pre-Employment Transition Caseload: 149

*New Applicants: 27

Student Enrollment

Da-Ok Academy: 9
Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School: 11
Kagman High School: 26
Marianas High School: 62
Saipan Southern High School: 36
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School: 5

Ethnicity

Chamorro: 68
Filipino: 34
Carolinian: 19
Chuukese: 8
Palauan: 5
Other: 15

Age (at time of application)

16 years: 81
17 years: 53
18 years: 12
19 years: 3

Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB): 32

*New Applicants: 14

Eligible: 3
Ineligible: 14
Closed-Services Provided: 1

Island

Saipan: 21
Tinian: 9
Rota: 2

Ethnicity

Chamorro: 21
Carolinian: 7
Filipino: 2
Chuukese: 1
Palauan: 1

Age (at time of application)

55-60 years: 4
61-70 years: 14
71-80 years: 11
Over 80 years: 3

GET IN TOUCH!

Bldg. 10839, Delegado Dr., Navy Hill P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 322-6537/8 | nmidir@ovrgov.net | visit ovrgov.net to learn more about us.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT:

VR Counselors work in partnership with employers and businesses to place qualified individuals with disabilities in jobs and careers that are meaningful and beneficial to both parties. This partnership is based on shared values of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility

OVR'S NO-COST BUSINESS SERVICES:

- Consultations regarding reasonable job accommodations
- Customized disability employment training for employers
- Tips on working and interacting with individuals with disabilities
- Information & referral to other public agencies or programs serving individuals with disabilities.

STATE PLAN:

1. Increase community awareness of OVR and available rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.
2. Increase professional development opportunities for OVR staff.
3. Increase the quantity and quality of employment outcomes for OVR consumers.
4. Increase the use of supported employment for individuals with the most significant disabilities in CNMI.
5. Expand and enhance the provision of transition and pre-employment transition services to youth and students with disabilities.
6. Increase and enhance collaboration with the Title I (called WIA) program in the CNMI.
7. Increase broadband Internet access for individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

Challenges:

OVR recognizes that ongoing economic challenges are making it increasingly difficult for our business partners to collaborate, especially when it comes to placing consumers in on-the-job training (OJT) programs to acquire specific occupational skills.

In response, OVR remains committed to maintaining open lines of communication with employers to identify mutually beneficial opportunities that address the needs of both consumers and businesses. During these challenging times, we will also continue to provide consumers with access to postsecondary education and trade programs. These initiatives will enable individuals to earn credentials that strengthen our local workforce and enhance their employability.