CNMI SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

2026 Citizen Centric Report

EST: 2014

The CNMI Scholarship & Financial Assistance Office (CSFAO) is an autonomous agency created by PL 18-40 and is governed by five board of directors and managed by an Administrator.

CSO strives to provide college student access programs and related resources to promote student success. Furthermore, CSO is fully committed to continuing with the streamlining of the application, scholarship disbursement, and compliance process. The stewardship of CSO funds remains a priority by ensuring all CSO funds are used by what is priority in our workforce.

WHO ARE WE 1

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MISSION
Our Approach

To provide college access programs to eligible CNMI residents who wish to pursue their post-secondary, graduate, and postgraduate degree; or, a certificate in the trades.

VISION
Desired Future Position

To have an educated and well-trained human capital to support our economic growth and promote the prosperity of the people in the CNMI.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna M. Flores, Chairperson
Monique B. Sablan, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Emma C. Itibus, Member • Diana B. Hocog, Member
Patricia Hofschneider, Member

STAFF



ADMINISTRATOR

Mildred Sablan-Camacho

COMPLIANCE & REPAYMENT

Jocelyn T. Blas & Jovene R. Ogo

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Aileen M. Farley

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Monica V. Manibusan & Jaime A. Igisaiar

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Carmen P. Sablan



STRATEGIC GOALS

Student Access

Providing scholarship programs to fill highly needed job categories in our workforce;

Streamline the application, disbursement and compliance process'.

Promoting equitable scholarship opportunities.

Student Success

Collecting academic achievement data and employment data of graduates;

Implement online student loan repayment;

Implement online student portal for compliance.

Investing in students educational development, promoting academic accountability and monitoring graduates employment outcomes.

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS

OUR STORY 2

High School

- Commonwealth College Access Grant (CCAG)

Undergraduate

- Educational Assistance Program Base (EAP Base)
- Marianas Employees Financial Aid (MEFA)
- Commonwealth College Access Grant (CCAG)
- Vocational & Trade Aid (VocAid)
- WICHE - Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Graduate & Post Graduate

- WICHE - Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)
- WICHE - Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) : SUSPENDED

I AM A CNMI Scholar Campaign

Featured 2 Graduates in our workforce.

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

WUE $1.7 Million + **WRGP** $76,000 + **PSEP** $37,000 = **5402%** Return on Investment

FY24 WICHE DUES $0 + **PSEP** $37,000

HIGHLIGHTS

Compliance, Repayment & Collections

CRC Master list in process pending Fall 2026

Complied through work service increased by 30%

Paid off accounts decreased by 50%

Defaulted with payment agreement decreased by 33%

Work service obligation by 35%

Updated Recipient Index updates as of Spring 2026

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Continued the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP);

WUE Savings $1.7 million (85 undergraduates);

WRGP Savings $76,000 (7 graduate students);

PSEP Savings $37,000 (1 Professional Healthcare Students); VetMed

5,402% Return on Investments through WICHE membership.

Scholarships & Grants

Disbursed approximately $372,312.50 in scholarships & loans;

Awarded 518 scholarships and grants;

Offered 4 (four) programs: Educational Assistance Program (EAP),

Commonwealth College Access Grant (CCAG),

Marianas Employees Financial Assistance (MEFA),

and VocAid for trades schools.

.

STUDENT ACCESS

Applicants by Gender

308 | 161

No. of Outreach Conducted

10

Awards Disbursed

372,312.50

Award Counts

518

STUDENT SUCCESS

Top Areas of Study

#1 Business
#2 STEM Fields
#3 Liberal Arts

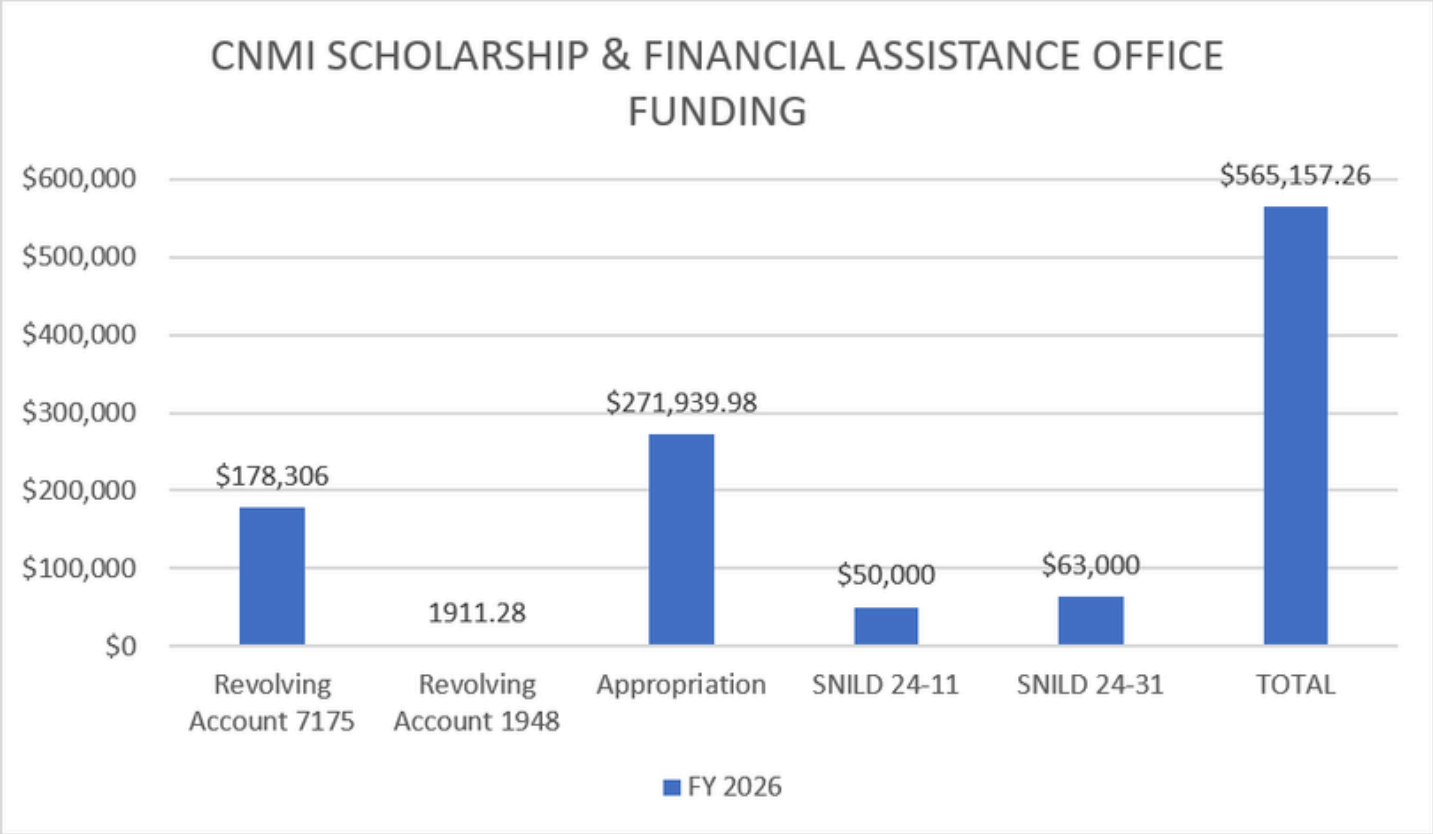
345 Graduates

$168,570.69 COMPLIED
55 COMPLIED

23 REPAYMENT
$156,147.65 WORKSERVICE

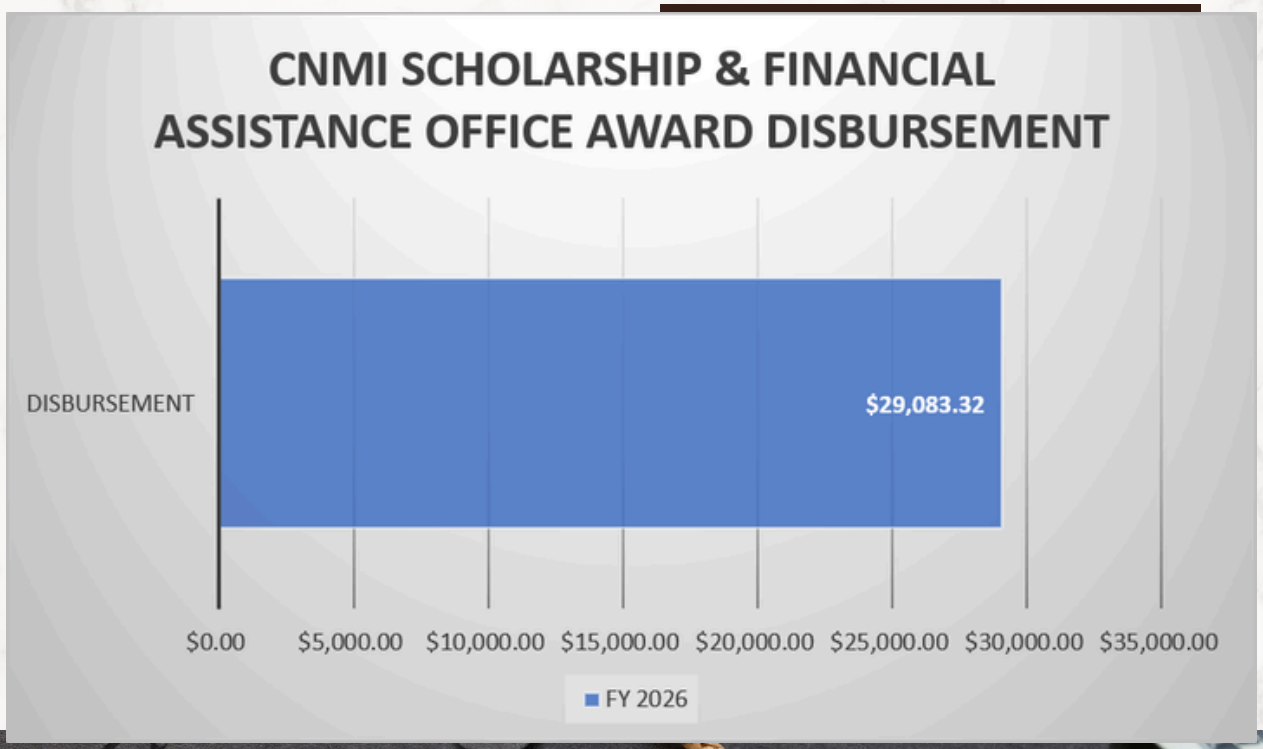
Student Loan Collections:
$201,575
Paid Off: 14
$38,935.11

Where Did Our Money Come From

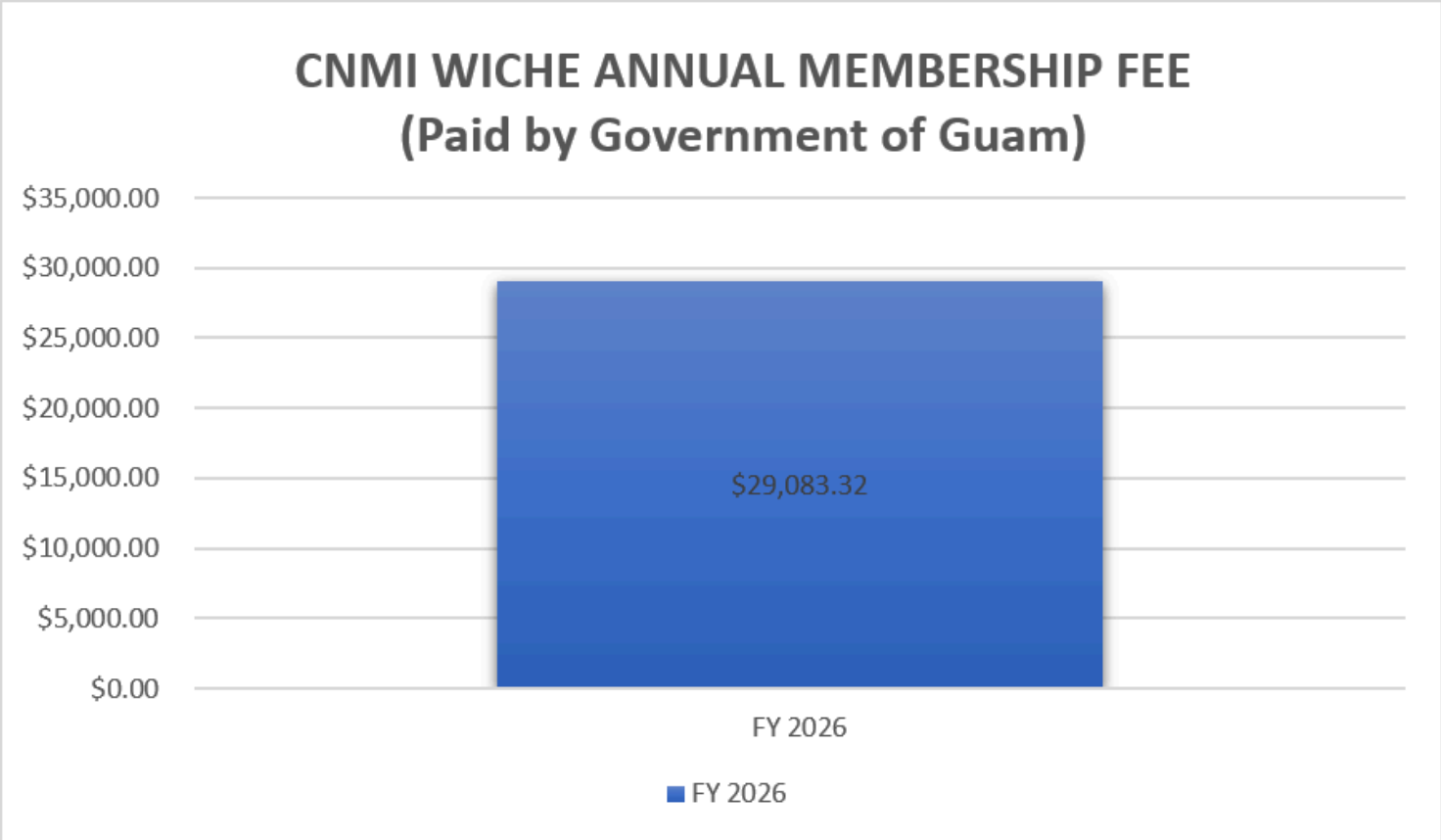


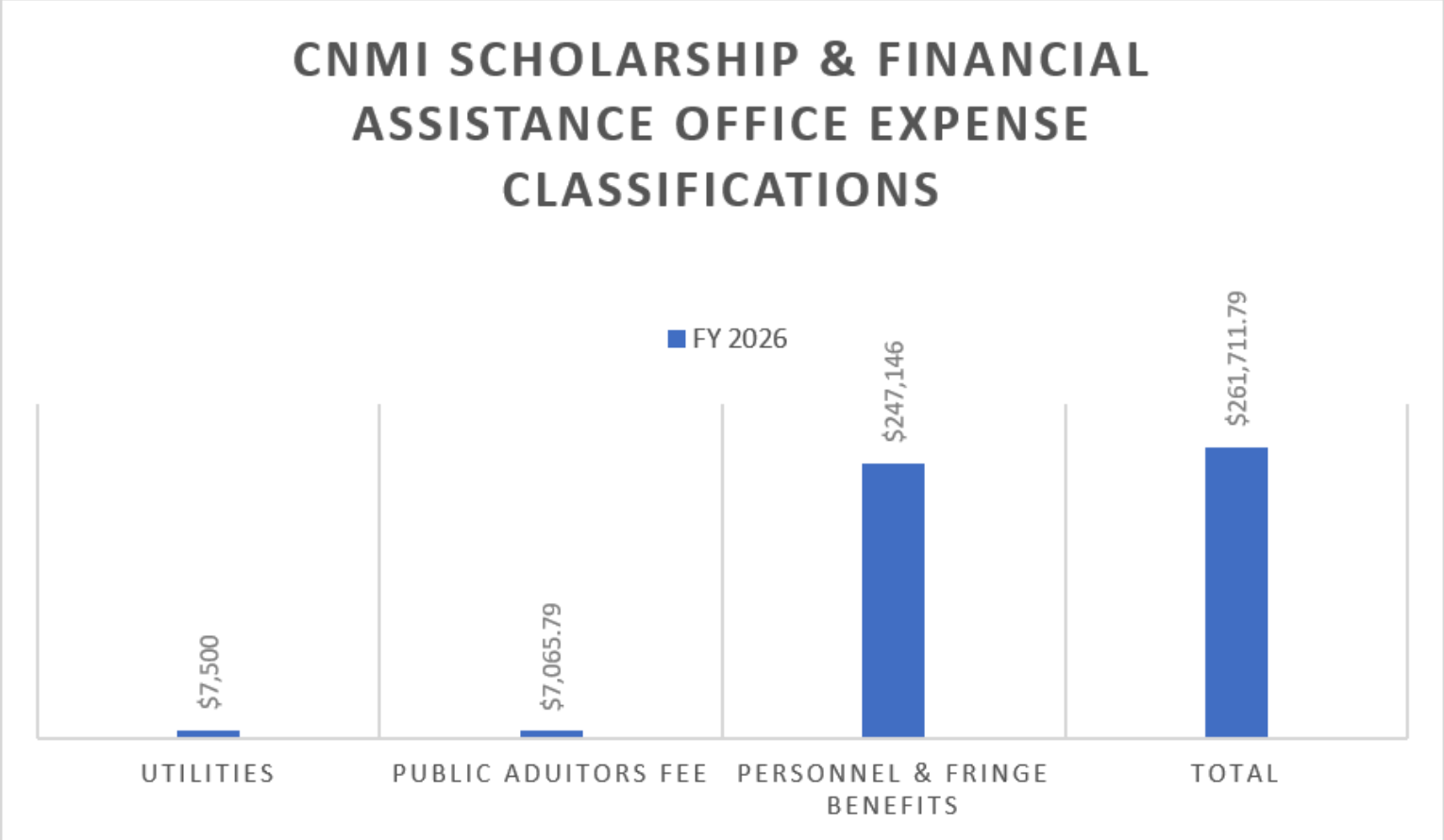
Where Did Our Money Go

SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSED



OPERATIONAL EXPENSES





Additional Highlights

- Continue to provide financial assistance to eligible students pursuing higher education.
- Support students enrolled in professional and specialize academic programs.
- Promoting educational access for students from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
- Continue collaborative partnership to build capacity in the workforce and trade skills with the Workforce Investment Agency, and the Northern Marianas College helping establish the Apprenticeship Program;
- 5402% Return on Investments through WICHE membership;
- Attended NMC Climb Higher summit Professional Development Day (PDD)
- Confirmed Board members: Donna M. Flores and Monique B. Sablan.
- Vet-Med student Lauren Cabrera at Washington State University through PSEP program.
- Highest collected $201,575 in YTD for FY2026

Portfolio

Create a sustainable portfolio for the Scholarship Office to allow CSO to eventually be financially self-sufficient;

Increase collection of defaulted/overdue accounts through Collection efforts through Project 2019/2020.

Innovation

Ensure that scholarship information and application processes are accessible (all students, include those with disability or from non-traditional backgrounds).

Enable prior recipients to make online payment of student loans;

Longitudinal tracking to follow scholar post-graduation to measure employment, community impact, and contribution;

Collaboration with the CNMI State/PSS Longitudinal Office to “integrate the CNMI’s existing K-12 data system with postsecondary education and workforce”;

Collaboration with the Department of Labor to incentivize recipients to return to the CNMI and work through modeling PL23-15 Disability Tax Credit.

Challenges

Limited funding: reliance on annual appropriations and collections;

identifying funding sources to reinstate suspended programs;

Student compliances accountability: Ensure that scholarship recipents comply with program requirements.

Difficulty reintegrating scholars: those students that study abroad may face limited job opportunities back home.

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