



# A REPORT TO OUR CITIZENS

FISCAL YEAR 2021

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is a State and Federal partnership agency, placed within the Office of the Governor, that provides services to individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. The OVR was established in 1975 and serves the three major islands of the Commonwealth: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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### Mission

OVR's mission is to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

### Vision

The vision of OVR is that individuals with disabilities are employed in competitive and integrated work settings, are empowered to make qualified decisions and informed choices, and are economically self-sufficient.

## OVR Executive Director's Message



Hafa Adai yan Tirow CNMI! On behalf of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), all staff and employees, we earnestly present to you our FY 2021 Citizen Centric Report that highlights our programs, consumer data, fiscal information, successes and the identified needs that our office plans to work on and implement as we enter this new fiscal year.

OVR remains to be dedicated to giving quality vocational rehabilitation services to all our interested applicants, eligible consumers, visitors, and business partners, both in the private and public sectors. While barriers to integrated and inclusive employers still exist, OVR and the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP), a group of various agencies who advocate for individuals with disabilities, have been working together to tackle these issues and more.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic compromised our economy greatly; many jobs have been lost, many businesses have shut down. However, our diligent and resilient staff and consumers continue to map out realistic vocational goals and plans that both meet the standards of expectations of our consumers, while also taking into account the economical situation the entire world has found themselves to be in. We are grateful for all the businesses, small and large, who have partnered with OVR to provide trainings and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and thus, opening doors and removing barriers for us all!

Our website is a starting place to learn more about our program and services. Please contact us at 322-6537/38 or email [arlene@ovrgov.net](mailto:arlene@ovrgov.net),

Thank you for allowing us to serve you, CNMI!



# PROGRAMS OFFERED

## No-Cost Services For Businesses

- Consultations regarding reasonable job accommodations for a newly hired employee or one who has acquired a disability.
- Disability Employment Training, such as Disability Awareness, Sensitivity Training, Americans with Disabilities Act (Title I-Employment), etc. Training can be customized to meet the needs of businesses.
- Recruitment and retention of qualified job applicants/employees with disabilities.

**Funding for work experience training (WET) & on-the-job (OJT)** is available to employers through OVR to help off-set the cost for providing training to an OVR consumer.



## Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Pre-ETS is provided to students with disabilities who meet the following:

1. Between the ages of 16-21 years.
2. Enrolled in high school and is receiving Special Education Services, or is in college, or participating in another educational program.

### Pre-ETS services include:

- Job exploration counseling.
- Work-based learning experiences.
- Counseling on postsecondary (college) options.
- Work readiness training.
- Instruction on self-advocacy.

## Services to Individuals and Veterans with Disabilities

Services may include a combination of the following:

- Vocational guidance and career counseling.
- Restoration (physical/mental).
- Vocational and other training services.
- Rehabilitation technology, including assistive technological services, assistive technology devices, and rehabilitation engineering.
- Job placement into suitable employment.
- Occupational tools and equipment.
- Personal assistance services attendant, interpreter, reader and scribe.



## Independent Living Older Blind Program (ILOB)

Our ILOB Program provides independent living services to individuals with visual impairment (20/70 in the better eye, with corrections) aged 55 years and older to assist them in maintaining their independence at home and in their communities.

Services are individualized and cater to the specific needs and Independent Living (IL) goals of the

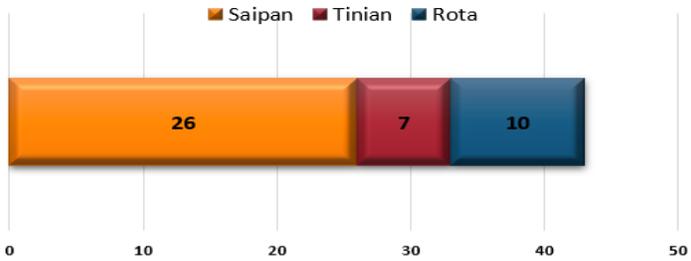
## Independent Living Services (ILS)

The ILS program grant is funded through the Administration for Community Living, and provides resources that supports the work of the State Independent Living Council (SILC) as well as provides funds for activities reflected in the approved State Plan for Independent Living. Funds are allocated, through a contract, to the Center for Living Independently (CLI) to provide Independent Living Services to people with disabilities in the CNMI. CLI is required to provide five core services.

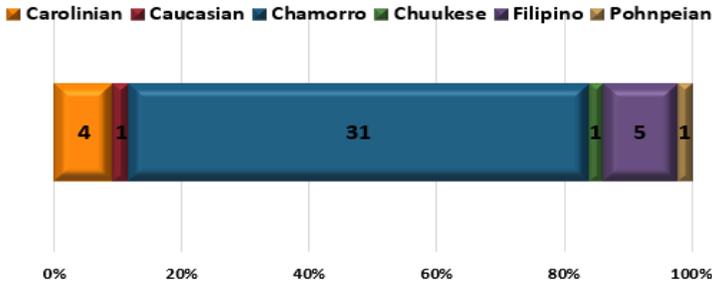
1. Information & referrals.
2. Independent living skills training.
3. Peer counseling.
4. Individual & systems advocacy.
5. Transition from institutions or postsecondary life.

# DATA REPORT

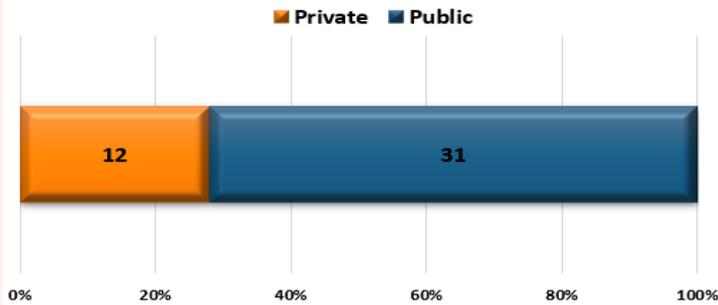
Island (St. 26 - Successful Closure)



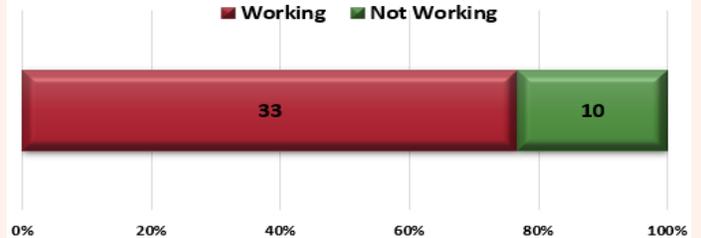
Ethnicity (St. 26 - Successful Closure)



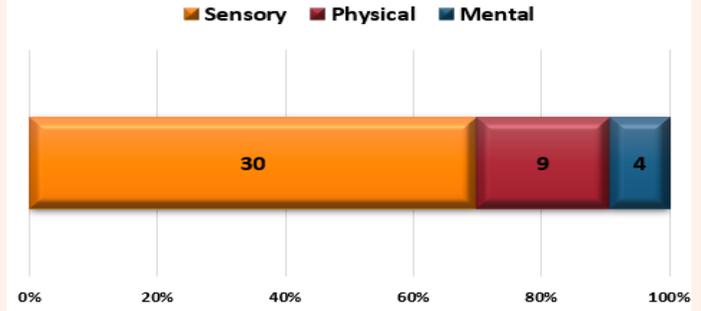
St. 26 (Successful Closure) Sectors



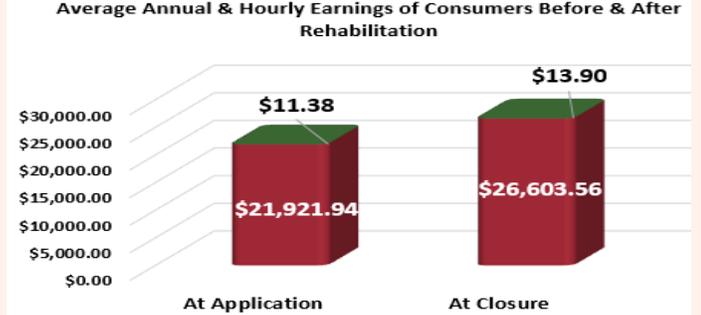
St. 26 (Successful Closure): At Application: Working vs Not Working



Disability Category (St. 26 - Successful Closure)

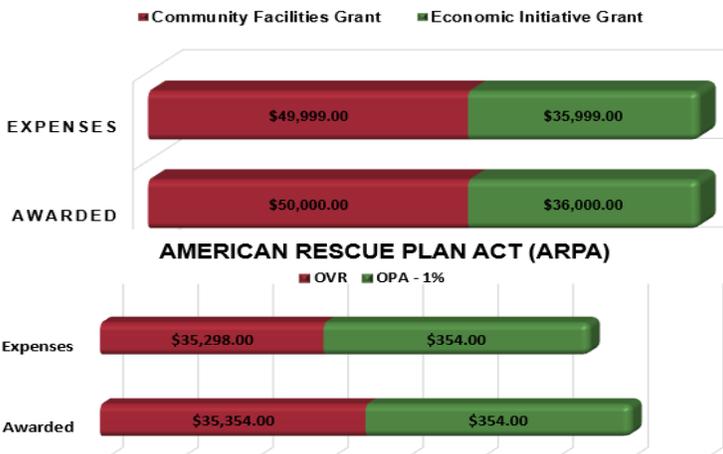


Average Earnings St. 26 (Successful Closure)

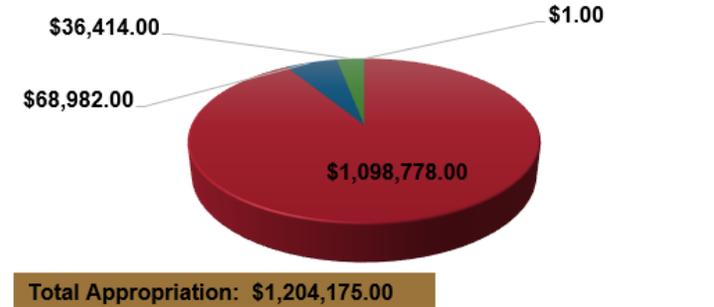


# FINANCES

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## FEDERAL & STATE APPROPRIATION for FY 2021



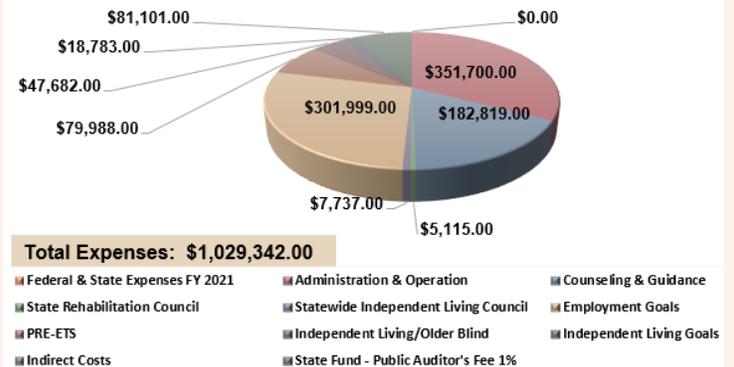
## FEDERAL & STATE APPROPRIATIONS



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



## FEDERAL & STATE EXPENSES FY 2020



# SUCCESS & NEEDS

## WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Consistent with OVR goals and priorities, the program will continue to promote competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities in our community. Our biggest successes of FY 2021 include:

- Full-Blown Outreaches to all three islands
- Attainment of new office vehicle through the USDA grant.
- Received new desktops, laptops, and iPads that both consumers and staff may avail of, courtesy of the CARES Act from Representatives Richard Lizama and Leila Staffler.
- Received wheelchairs, walkers and crutches for consumers through the USDA grant.
- Began to recognize VR consumers, highlight VR data and business partners on social media.
- Participated in various community services such as clean-ups, Disability Network Partners sponsored events and outreaches.



## IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The CNMI OVR will continue its efforts to maintain or develop cooperative arrangements or agreements with various local, State, Federal agencies and entities for referrals, training, services, facilities utilization, potential cost-sharing, and advocacy activities.

Itemized below are a few of the needs of individuals with disabilities and the recommendations offered to OVR based on the results of the CSNA Report 2020:

- The need for work incentive counseling, hiring and benefits planning remains a major need in CNMI. OVR needs to ensure that all SSA beneficiaries, especially young people, have access to benefits planning so that they can help counter the fear of benefits loss through work. Implementation of tax incentives for employers who hire individuals with disabilities may expand an employer's availability, especially in Tinian and Rota.
- OVR should continue to try and develop individual service providers and/or train and certify staff to provide common service needs such as job coaching.
- The WIOA partners should continue to determine a unified platform to assist case management tracking. This first step in co-managing cases with the WIOA Program should also include regular and frequent cross-training for staff on the process flow of co-supporting individuals with disabilities.
- Enhance the visibility of the OVR Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ET) program outreach to bridge the gap of transitioning students, post high school graduation.

