



CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

2024 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

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Pursuant to Article III, Section 18 of the CNMI Constitution, the Carolinian Affairs Office (CAO) shall:

- Advise the governor on matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent within the Commonwealth.
- Review the application of government policies and the availability and quality of government services for persons of Carolinian descent.
- Investigate complaints and conduct public hearings regarding matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent.
- May recommend items for inclusion in the proposed annual budget, review the budget before its submission by the governor to the legislature and recommend amendments to the budget relating to matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent.
- May at any time require information in writing or otherwise with respect to matters affecting persons of Carolinian descent from the officers of any administrative department, office or agency of the Commonwealth.

CAO is represented as a member of the Governor's Council created under Article VI, Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution.

Our mission includes providing educational, social and cultural programs and services to our community.

CAO has three (3) Divisions

- 1) Executive & Administrative
- 2) Outreach Programs & Services
- 3) Maintenance & Field Operation

Measuring Progress

PARTNERSHIPS

Interagency collaboration has indeed proven to be a vital aspect of our success. This past year we have worked alongside the Indigenous Affairs Office, Women's Affairs Office, Humanities Council, Council of Arts & Culture, CNMI Museum, the Public School System and other agencies by pooling resources and aligning our objectives to effectively deliver our projects and activities. Our partnership has led to innovative solutions and have impacted the community at large. We continue and foster this spirit of cooperation for all our future collaborative efforts.

CAROLINIAN BILINGUAL

The Public School System (PSS) is experiencing a positive shift with the increase of Carolinian bilingual teachers. This change is not merely an addition to the public school but signifies a deeper recognition of the Carolinian language's pivotal role not only in public education, but to the entire community. With nine (9) dedicated teachers currently employed, and eight (8) joining through the WIOA Program, there is optimism in the air. Our efforts ensure that the Carolinian language continues to thrive for generations to come.

HERITAGE MONTH, CULTURAL OUTREACH & PROJECT LIFFANG

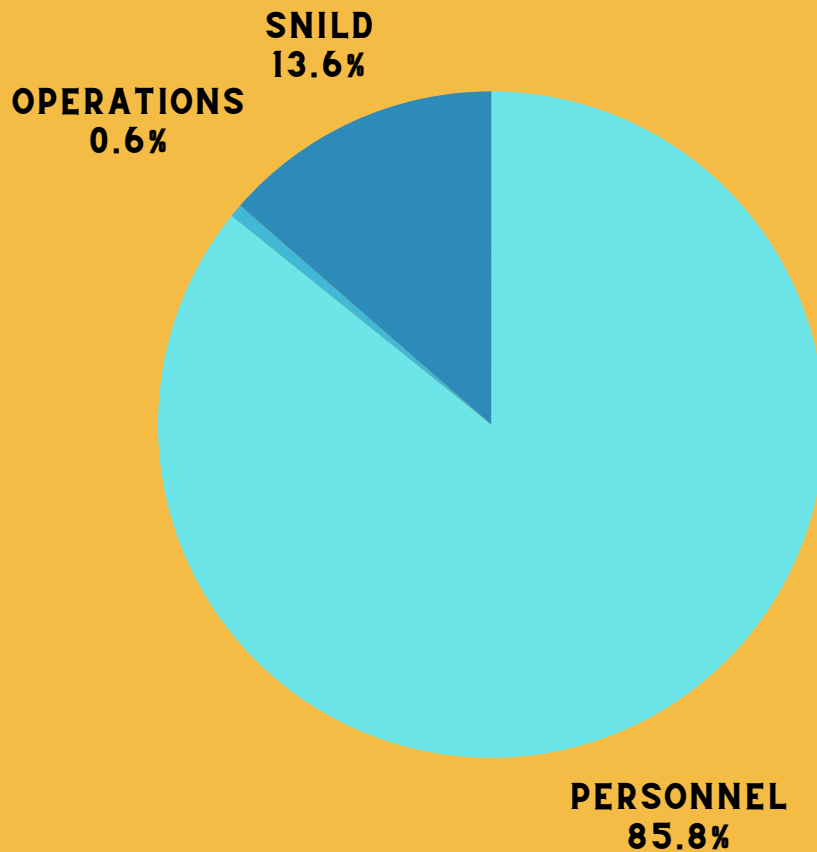
The celebration of Chamorro Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month was a success! The dedication to preserving and sharing the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures reflected through all the cultural activities in the month of September. The successful implementation of the Chamorro Carolinian Cultural Roadmap pilot program is a significant step in cultural education, allowing young students to immerse themselves in the traditions and practices that form the bedrock of their community's identity. Almost 2,000 school children participated in the program that ran every week at the CNMI Museum and the Carolinian Utt.

Cultural Outreach played a huge role at Heritage Month as well. The impact of bringing these cultural experiences directly into the classroom cannot be overstated. Students are always actively participating and engaged. Showcasing traditional dances, music, bead making, mwaar making, banana painting and weaving are some of the activities that were available throughout Heritage Month. Despite financial hurdles, Project Liffang's ability to provide a platform for cultural artists and demonstrators not only showcased their work but also catalyzed their transformation into the first step of successful entrepreneurs. These initiatives extend beyond active periods, leaving not only a lasting impression but a NEED for the community.

Fiscal Year 2023

	GENERAL FUND (PL 23-09)	SNILD	TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$189,621	-	\$189,621
OPERATIONS	\$1,419	-	\$1,419
CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH	-	\$30,000	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$191,040	\$30,000	\$221,040

Expenses



PL 23-09 allocated funds for the Carolinian Affairs Office totaling \$191,040

What's Next?

01. **Priority/ GOAL**

Year-round cultural demonstration throughout the school system. . This approach not only enriches the curriculum but also promotes critical thinking and empathy among students. It's a step towards creating a more culturally competent and aware generation, ready to engage with the global community with respect and understanding.

03. **Priority/ GOAL**

Lobby the passage of proposal to charge fees for facility usage and the promulgation of regulations.

02. **Priority/ GOAL**

Continue efforts with PSS addressing teacher disparity to ensure fairness and equality pertaining to bilingual program; mitigating bilingual teacher shortages and improve working conditions and benefits.

04. **Priority/ GOAL**

Complete the installation of facilities along the beachfront at the CAO grounds, aligning with regulations and engaging with the community to ensure the project's success and sustainability.