



ABOUT US....

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs in Rota provides direct social services to the young and old, sports and recreation for a healthy community, conducts outreach for the Arts and Culture, and protects the municipality's historical values.

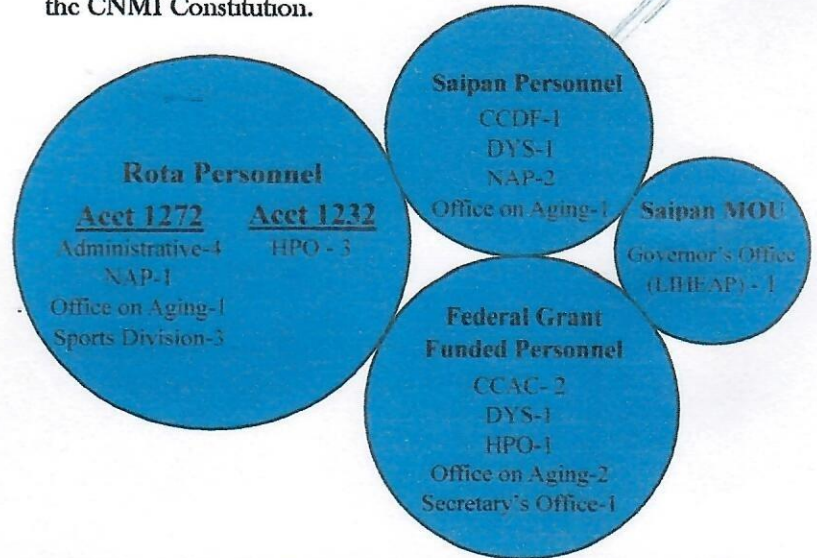
The department consists of the following divisions:

- Administrative Section
- Child Care Development Fund
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture
- Division of Youth Services
- Historic Preservation Office
- Low-Income High Energy Assistance Program
- Nutrition Assistance Program
- Office on Aging
- Sports and Recreation

These divisions are managed by the Resident Department Head, and appointee of the Mayor, under Article VI Section 3(g) of the CNMI Constitution.

MISSION STATEMENT

Is to oversee the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands' functions in the area of human and social services, historic and landmark conservation, and activities to preserve the Chamorro and Carolinian heritages and traditions with respect to Article VI of the CNMI Constitution.



The 2024 Citizen-Centric report introduction outlines the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' expenditure focus for the fiscal year, noting challenges due to unfunded operations for its business units 1272 and 1232. To sustain its functions, the department leaned on support from the Office of the Mayor, 19th Rota Municipal Council, and Rota Legislative Delegation. While the department's personnel covered most operational expenses, key resources like fuel, equipment parts, printer inks, and communications were donated to the department. In some cases, telecommunications were placed on vacation plans to prevent disconnection. This report underscores the department's commitment to innovative strategies to maintain operations despite financial constraints. For Fiscal Year 2024, Rota's Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) received no direct funding. The revised budget focused solely on personnel costs and Office of Public Auditor (OPA) fees. Operational funding for key programs—namely, the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), Division of Youth Services (DYS), Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and Office on Aging (OoA)—are provided by their respective Saipan offices under the "State Plan" program, ensuring continued support for these services despite the funding limitations for the department.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Site Maintenance

Efforts are managed by three divisions—Sports, Historic Preservation Office, and CCAC—with a team of six personnel. They provide monthly landscape and maintenance services for 12 key locations:

1. DCCA Main Office
2. Casa de Re'al in Songsong Village
3. Japanese Water Well in Tatchog
4. Japanese Pre-war Rectory in Tatchog
5. Ma'ya Ancient Latte Site
6. Mochong Ancient Latte Site
7. Chugai Pictograph Cave
8. Joaquin M. Ogo Baseball Field
9. Sinapalo Youth Basketball Court
10. DYS Youth Center
11. Sonton to Tatchog Pavilion Highway (Adopt-A-Highway Program)
12. Joe Charfauros, Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park

• **Funding and Resources:** Fuel, equipment parts, and supplies for field operations in FY24 were provided by the Rota Mayor's Office and DCCA personnel. Additionally, financial contributions from Honorable Aubry Hocog and DCCA staff helped support ongoing maintenance efforts.

• **Acknowledgments:** Special thanks are extended to the Rota DCCA site maintenance team and Mayor Hocog for their contributions, ensuring these sites remain accessible and enjoyable for the public, students, and visitors.



Community Support Activities

Rota DCCA personnel, including staff from Administrative, Sports, Arts Council, and Historic Preservation Office (HPO), actively support the Public School System and community initiatives. Their efforts include:

- Providing cultural education and supporting seasonal sports leagues and festivals.
- Assisting with officiating for softball, basketball, and volleyball games during school hours, after school, and at night.
- Offering cultural education through the Arts Council and HPO upon request.
- Conducting historical site tours, especially by HPO personnel, for students, residents, and visitors, including weekend tours to sites like the Chugai Pictograph Cave. Special recognition is given to Mr. Antonelli Rosario for his dedication to hosting off-island visitors.
- **Additional Responsibilities:** HPO personnel also issue occasional earthmoving permits as part of their duties.

Acknowledgments and Dedication: Rota DCCA personnel often work beyond their scheduled hours without overtime funding, earning compensatory time instead. Their commitment promotes healthy living, preserves Chamorro heritage, and supports community sports and youth engagement, despite limited operational funding.

Direct Services

Direct services program include Child Care Development Fund, Division of Youth Services, Nutrition Assistance Program, and Office on Aging. These division provides:

- ✓ Client intake and case management.
- ✓ Preparation and execution of action plans.
- ✓ Weekly and monthly nutritional support for low-income families and elders.
- ✓ Protection from neglect and abuse.
- ✓ Recreation and outreach services, along with other necessary human services.

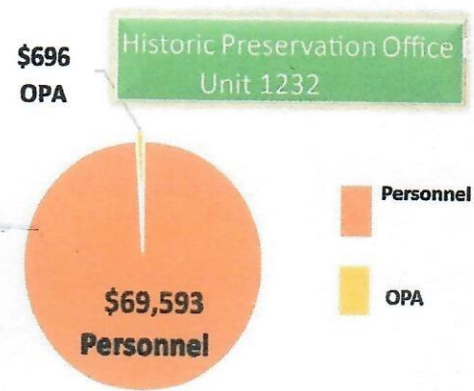
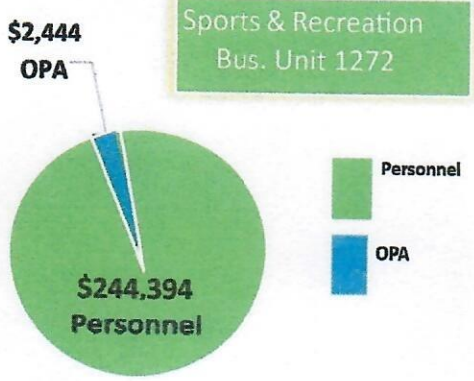
These direct services are predominantly funded by Saipan, covering 98% of the operational costs.



Finances

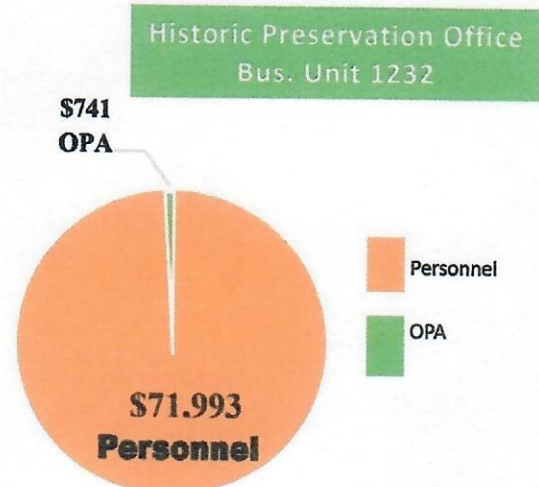
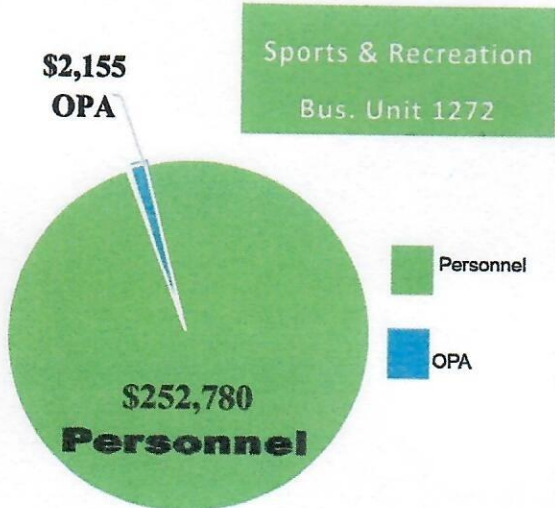
Public Law 22-22, P. L. 23-04 (Revised)

October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023



Public Law 23-09

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024



Public Law 22-22 initially established a regular 80-hour bi-weekly work schedule for October 1, 2023, through April 2024. However, as of April 25, 2024, Public Law 23-04 changed this to a 70-hour bi-weekly schedule. This adjustment impacted the personnel expenditures and the Office of Public Auditor's expenditure reports for the fiscal year 2024, as they now reflect costs under both the 80-hour and 70-hour schedules for their respective periods.

KEY INITIATIVES

The following initiatives will be pursued if the identified funding sources become available:

1. 2025 Supplemental Appropriation by the CNMI Legislature to enhance project funding.
2. Appropriations from the Rota Legislative Delegation to support local initiatives.
3. Federal and Foundation Grants: Actively seek and apply for grants through the Office of Grants Management and the Clearance House.
4. Rota Mayor's Office Support: Engage with the mayor's office to secure additional backing.
5. 19th Rota Municipal Council Support to promote local initiatives.
6. Local and Regional Partnerships: Collaborate with local, Saipan, and Guahan business communities, government department heads, the Association of Mariana Island Mayors, and the business sector to strengthen support and resources for key programs and projects.

These efforts aim to secure diverse funding and support to implement critical initiatives across Rota.



CHALLENGES

The department faces significant challenges due to limited funding and personnel, which restricts our capacity to fully implement and sustain all desired programs and services. Despite these constraints, we are committed to serving the community by maximizing available resources, prioritizing key initiatives, and fostering partnerships that support our efforts. Our team remains dedicated to finding creative solutions, such as cross-training staff, seeking collaborative support, and applying for grants, to ensure that essential services and cultural programs continue to reach those who rely on them.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

1. Personnel Professional Development
 - Administrative and Division Cross-Training: Cross-train staff to improve versatility and inter-departmental collaboration.
 - Quarterly Retreat: Host one retreat each quarter to enhance team bonding and professional growth.
2. Non-Standard Work Week Schedule
 - After-School and Evening Programs: Offer youth and adult sports as well as cultural programs outside traditional hours.
3. Jr. & Sr. High School Skill Awareness Outreach
 - Skill Demonstrations: Expose students to a variety of skilled professions through interactive presentations.
4. Sinapalu Night Market and FestPac
 - Policy and Event Establishment: Develop policies and events for a recurring night market celebrating cultural heritage, including the Festival of Pacific Islanders (FestPac).
5. Touch Back Certification Program
 - Implement a certification program aimed at skill enhancement and cultural retention.
6. Cultural Podcast
 - Launch a podcast focusing on preserving and sharing cultural stories and knowledge.
7. Cultural Folk Art Program
 - Support and promote traditional folk art practices within the community.
8. Cultural Music and Dance Program
 - Offer classes and events focusing on indigenous music and dance.
9. Medicinal Workshop and Archiving
 - Conduct workshops on traditional medicinal practices and create an archive for knowledge preservation.
10. Weaving Class
 - Host classes to teach traditional weaving techniques.
11. Shoreline Medicinal Land Designation
 - Designate shoreline areas for the cultivation of medicinal plants to preserve cultural practices.
12. Highway Beautification Nursery
 - Establish a nursery for beautification projects, Rota Cultural Center landscaping, and the planting of 1,000 fruit trees for environmental and aesthetic benefits.

These initiatives emphasize cultural preservation, skill development, environmental sustainability, and community engagement across various age groups.

