

Criminal Justice Planning Agency
Office of the Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FY 2024 Three-Year State Plan Update
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US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs,
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
2024 Title II Formula Grant Application

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Introduction

- The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) was established in 1980 under the Office of the Governor through Executive Order No. 16 which created the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System. On November 20, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 11-47, CJPA's Councils and Authorities were created by law. The CJPA was established as the staff of the Supervisory Council to function in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth. The Supervisory Council was tasked to comply with the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safety Street Act of 1968, as amended, and other related Federal Laws. The Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the CJPA Supervisory Council, serves as the Supervisory Body for the administration of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs for the CNMI and as a mechanism for cooperative action among the various law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and related community programs in the CNMI.

- ***Goals and Objectives.*** The CJPA is committed to providing service and community programs to the public by securing federal funds for critical needs under the direction of the Governor, Supervisory Council, and State Advisory Council. CJPA currently functions to achieve the following goals and objectives:
 1. To successfully administer federal programs relating to the CNMI criminal justice system by preparing and developing annual state plan applications for federal funds that will benefit the CNMI criminal justice system and to monitor and evaluate criminal justice programs and projects funded under CJPA programs.

2. To advise and assist the Governor in developing policies, plans, programs and budgets for improving the coordination, administration, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in the Commonwealth.
3. To encourage comprehensive justice planning efforts.
4. To monitor, evaluate, and coordinate programs and projects, funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth, aimed at reducing crime and juvenile delinquency and improving the administration of justice.
5. To apply for, contract, receive and expend any appropriations or grants from the Commonwealth, the Federal Government, or any other source (public or private) in accordance with the appropriate process.
6. To collect from any Commonwealth department, agency, instrumentality, office, or other entity, information data, reports, statistics or other material which is necessary to carry out the Council's or CJPA's functions.

- ***Authority as the Territory Designated State Agency (DSA).*** Pursuant to CNMI Executive Order No. 2010-07, CJPA is the designated state agency to administer Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grants, and is required to monitor compliance with the Core Protection Requirements of the OJJDP. Under CNMI Executive Order No. 2010-07 CJPA's authority to implement such a plan is not specifically stated, but rather gives broad discretion to CJPA in coordinating with its Executive Office (CNMI Office of the Governor) to revise the executive order to add a provision that CJPA will have the authority to implement such a plan as the CNMI's DSA.

CNMI's State Advisory Group (SAG)

- The CNMI's SAG functions as a committee consisting of council members appointed by the CNMI Governor. The SAG reviews grant packages prepared by the CJPA staff that consist of all applications from sub-grantees or new applicants who outline their proposals and project goals that support the best interests in CNMI's youth community and adhere to OJJDP guidelines. The key responsibilities and functions of SAG are detailed as follows: A) to advise the Supervisory Council and the

CJPA on all issues relating to the improvement of the juvenile justice system and its services to CNMI youth. **B)** to advise the CNMI Governor and the CNMI Legislature on issues of concern to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, including the activities of the Supervisory Council and to issue annual reports on the status of the CNMI's compliance with the OJJDP Act mandates; **C)** to review and comment on all sub-grantee applications for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (hereinafter referred to as the "JJDP") grant funds; **D)** to participate in the development and review/approval of the JJDP portion of the comprehensive state plan and its annual update; **E)** to seek annual input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system; and **F)** to review progress and accomplishments of programs funded with the JJDP grant funds. [SAG Bylaws](#) were written in 2010 and the CNMI is in the process of updating its bylaws to include language referencing a coordinating body for Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED).

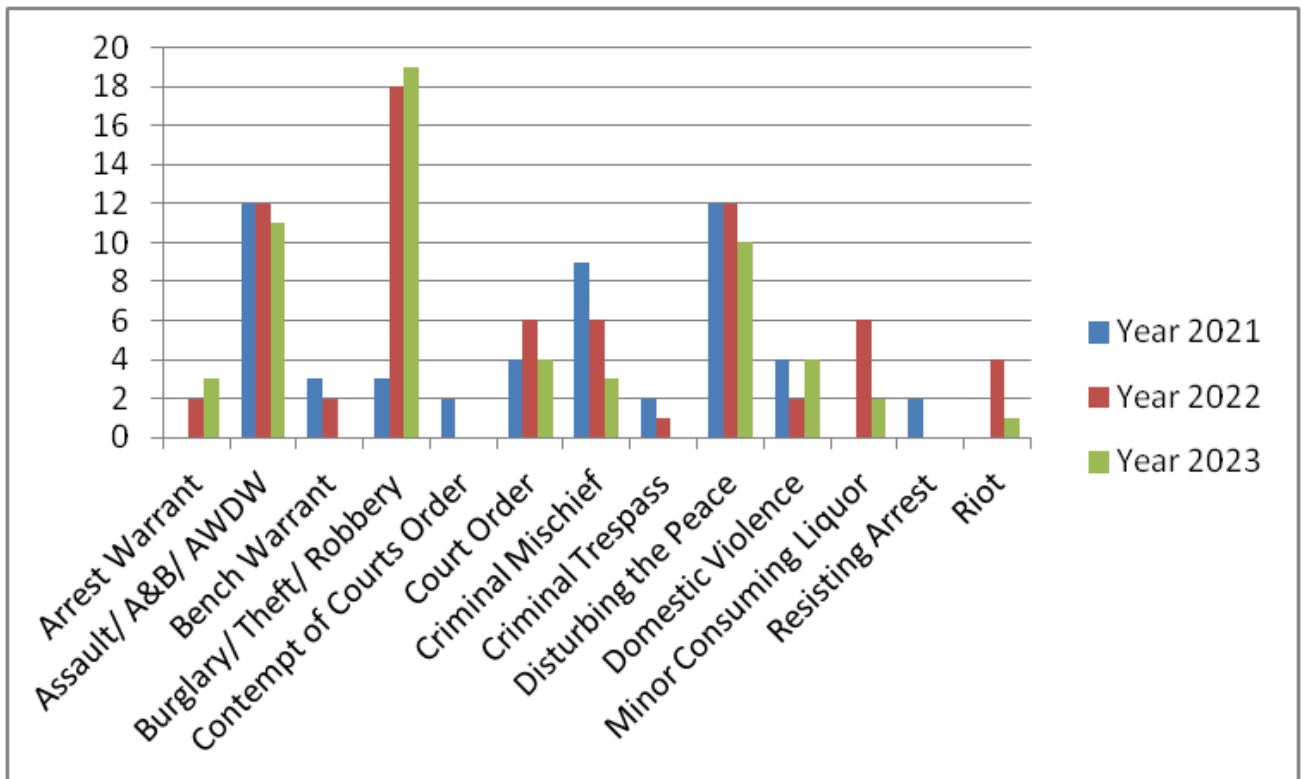
- The 2024 State Advisory Group (SAG) is composed of members who hold positions in various areas of government. As of 2024, there are 19 members under SAG. The latest SAG roster is composed of individuals who represent a multitude of professions, all of which play a key role in the realm of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. These professions include the following: a member of the CNMI Legislature, a School Mental Health Director, a Family Court Manager, a School Counselor, a Juvenile Probation Supervisor, a Victim Advocate, a Community Guidance Center Director, a Fiscal Specialist and Child Protective Services Staff.
- The most recent CNMI SAG roster is attached [here](#) [See **Exhibit A**]. Contact with SAG members listed on the most recent roster (2021) has been difficult. CJPA has utilized the OJJDP SAG roster template as the baseline during its search and recruitment of new members. CJPA would have to ensure that the membership meets the OJJDP SAG category requirements. All new appointments will be in compliance with membership requirements as stated in **Section 223(a)(3)(A0-(B)(v) of the 2018 Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA)**.
- Completion of the Three-Year plan was primarily carried out by the CJPA's Program Manager for OJJDP Funding (Grant Compliance Officer) by reaching out to other government/non-government agencies for information and assistance with regard to content for the Three-Year plan.
- It is of important note that due to funds withheld since the inception of the 2020 award, through the 2023 award, it has been difficult to bring SAG meetings as there was nothing

to be discussed with no funds yet awarded. However, with the recent waiver of the Planning & Administration (10%), we have been able to move forward with finalizing budgets for FY20, 21, 22 and 23. Thus, with the SAG membership, the following tasks will be prioritized on the next meeting agenda:

- o Bring the current Three-Year plan to the committee's attention for review and discussion. Necessary changes will be made following that process and submitted to OJJDP. CJPA will also develop an annual schedule of SAG meetings which will include meetings for SAG participation in future Three-Year plan development and annual reviews.
- o CJPA will work with the newly appointed SAG to review SAG Bylaws and add the 45 day requirement for review and comment of Title II applications submitted to the DSA;
- o CJPA will work with the SAG to develop a process that ensures regular contact, communication and input from at-risk juveniles.
- o CJPA will work with the SAG to develop a process and timing for SAG review of progress and accomplishment of Title II-funded programs;
- o Discuss an action plan that ensures participation and active consultation with units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state/territory plan. This plan development will be added to the SAG Bylaws and reflected under duties of the SAG; and
- o Discuss how to provide for equitable distribution of the assistance received under Section 222 [34 U.S.C. § 11132] within CNMI.

Territory’s Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency and Findings

- Arrests, Booking, Probation:** The CNMI’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) performs juvenile arrests. The CNMI’s Department of Corrections (DOC) performs the Booking and Intake process of any arrested juvenile(s) together with their detention and confinement within the correctional facility. The Department of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Probation Unit (JPU) oversees juveniles released on conditions of probation.
- Year 2021 - 2023 findings:** There has been a shift in the trends which indicate that juveniles are committing the most prevalent crimes. There’s been a slight increase in arrest warrants from 2022 - 2023. Assault, Assault & Battery and Assault with a dangerous weapon indicate relatively stagnant number from 2021 - 2022. It is important to note that as of August, 2024, the 2023 numbers for these types of offenses remains lower compared to the two previous years. There was a decrease in bench warrants issued, from 3 in 2021 to 2 in 2022, and none thus far for 2023. Disturbing the peace numbers remained relatively stagnant from 2021 - 2022 with 12 offenses committed compared to 10 thus far in 2023, a reduction of 16.7% compared to those previous years. The highest number of offenses for 2023 has been Burglary, Theft and Robbery, which was 19 in 2023 compared to 3 in 2021, an increase of about 84.3%.



The data chart above was compiled with the data obtained from the CNMI’s Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Division of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Probation Unit (JPU):

	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24
Arrest Warrant	0	2	3
Assault/ A&B/ AWDW	12	12	11
Bench Warrant	3	2	0
Burglary/ Theft/ Robbery	3	18	19
Contempt of Courts Order	2	0	0
Court Order	4	6	4
Criminal Mischief	9	6	3
Criminal Trespass	2	1	0
Disturbing the Peace	12	12	10
Domestic Violence	4	2	4
Minor Consuming Liquor	0	6	2
Resisting Arrest	2	0	0
Riot	0	4	1

- In addition, the findings listed out in this Three-Year State Plan, CNMI has identified several critical needs listed below:
 - Need for CNMI to establish a centralized information hub that will provide ease of access to information and statistics. The CJPAs has applied for and is awaiting funding for the 2024 National Criminal History Information Program (NCHIP) grant which will be utilized to hire a Network Administrator to implement our Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), which will be utilized to connect the current systems of all pertinent, criminal justice agencies (such as the courts, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections and the Division of Youth Services Juvenile Probation Unit). The implementation of this system with funding from NCHIP will assist CJPAs—and the Criminal Justice components of the CNMI as a whole—in being able to access pertinent data and statistics relative to juvenile justice in the CNMI:
 - Need funding to implement juvenile gender-specific services. Many government agencies provide gender-inclusive services instead.
 - Need for services that are in line with the prevention and treatment of juvenile

delinquency in rural areas.

- o Need for mental health services to youths in the juvenile justice system.
- o Need the establishment of a coalition or task force that is structured to the prevention, screening, and investigation of juvenile human trafficking crimes and that develops an assistance need plan for victims of such crimes.

Core Entities and their Services

- Throughout the creation of this State Plan, CJPA had identified a number of key entities (government agencies, departments, organizations, etc.) who all provide distinct services that youth clients can avail to, assist in reshaping the juvenile justice system in improved ways and actions, and may have coordinate a partnership with one another to achieve the best results for their clients. Those entities along with further details on their services and purpose are listed below:

1. **CNMI's Division of Youth Services (DYS):** **DYS** is a CNMI government entity whose services center around providing essential services through various programs catered to the improvement of youth welfare, family growth, sheltering, and juvenile probation. **DYS:**

- Have gender-inclusive services.
- Works closely with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), who offer teen pregnancy and parenting services to juvenile females. Other programs under **DYS** and those under Systems of Care (SOC) offer gender-inclusive services, not specific to a single gender
- The CNMI is relatively small compared to Puerto Rico and the 50 states. The CNMI does not have towns, cities or counties. Rather, the CNMI—which comprises the islands of

Saipan, Rota and Tinian—have multiple villages on each island. DYS administers programs that cater to the youth through offering intervention services.

- Provide youth intervention services
2. **Department of Corrections (DOC):** The only correctional facility in the CNMI where adult inmates and juveniles in detention are confined in, either awaiting court appearance or serving their sentence. A major update occurred in May of 2024 as it relates to Juvenile Detention Unit (JDU), which used to be collocated with the adult correctional facility. There used to be a separate section for the JDU inside DOC that was collocated which was used to confine all juveniles who are detained after arrest and who awaited their court hearing or those who are serving a sentence. A newly renovated building was constructed specifically for the JDU to house juveniles. This was a major milestone as it serves to further cement the process of maintaining sight and sound separation of juveniles and adults.
 3. **CNMI Public School System (PSS):** CNMI's primary entity for providing education to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. PSS offers relevant programs such as Early Intervention, Cooperative Education and its Incarcerated Youth Program. PSS Mental Health team work in collaboration with CHCC's Systems of Care (SOC) for school-based peer support.
 4. **Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC):** CNMI's primary healthcare provider for in-patient and out-patient clients. CHCC provides a long range of health care services that residents can avail to depending on specific needs.
 - Although there are female-specific services, such as pregnancy and parenting services offered by the CHCC, other programs such as the SOC offer gender-inclusive services which are not specific to a single gender.
 - Have gender-inclusive services.
 5. **Community Guidance Center (CGC):** CNMI's primary provider of mental and behavioral health services in the CNMI, offering comprehensive services for children, adolescents, adults, and elderly people living with emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse-related issues. The CGC:

- Have gender-inclusive services.
 - SOC, for instance, offers services focused on family engagement and family development collaboration.
 - Works closely with DYS, by providing teen pregnancy and parenting services to female juveniles.
 - Provide youth intervention services
6. CNMI Department of Public Safety: The local police department which performs general policing responsibilities and law enforcement actions around the community.

Compliance with 2018 JJRA Core Requirements (CMM & R/ED PLAN)

- OJJDP conducted an audit on CJPA in August of 2017. As a result of that audit, there were key findings and critical items that CJPA needed to comply with and revise its existing Compliance Monitoring Manual (CMM) to meet essential requirements. An enhanced desk audit was also conducted in August of 2020 that found that there was a need for an effective system of monitoring. The former CJPA JJ Specialist and Grants Financial Analyst (Now the Grant Compliance Officer with CJPA) worked with the team of the Centers for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) in drafting and finalizing a compliance monitoring manual to satisfy the requirement.
- As mentioned above, in 2022, CJPA's new OJJDP Title II Program Coordinator with the assistance of CJPA's Grants Financial Analyst had worked diligently and effortlessly during their starting months of employment to achieve an updated and efficient Compliance Monitoring Manual.
- Similarly, as of 2022, CJPA's new OJJDP Title II Program Coordinator with the assistance of CJPA's Grants Financial Analyst worked diligently and effortlessly to develop an updated Racial & Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Plan. With inconsistencies and errors found on previous R/ED Plans submitted for FY19 and FY20, CJPA took the initiative to seek out assistance and guidance from CCAS staff to reach the goal of producing an updated, accurate, and quality R/ED Plan. See the most current version of the R/ED Plan (Exhibit D).

Territory Various Plans and Compliance

- ***Gender Specific Services.***
 - There are a few agencies identified in the CNMI that offer gender-specific programs for youth. For example, DYS works closely with the CHCC, who offer teen pregnancy and parenting services to juvenile females. Other programs under DYS and those under SOC offer gender-inclusive services, not specific to a single gender.
- ***Plan for Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency in Rural Areas.***
 - The CNMI is relatively small compared to Puerto Rico and the 50 states. CNMI is not composed of towns, cities or counties. Rather, the CNMI is composed of 3 islands: Saipan, Rota and Tinian—with each island containing multiple villages. There are programs administered by community service-focused departments (such as DYS and SOC) that cater to youth through offering intervention services. SOC, for instance, offers services focused on family engagement and family development collaboration.
- ***Plan for Alternatives to Juvenile Detention***
 - Government entities/agencies/departments (examples identified in this response) that work closely within the juvenile justice system or who provide services to mainly youth clients all impact one way or another to the general youth, youth who are in juvenile detention, or youth under juvenile probation supervision.
 - The CNMI has programs in place that cater to juvenile status offenders. The DYS and SOC, for instance, provide intervention services to youth. The goal of SOC is to improve mental health outcomes for youth and their families. SOC works with the Mental Health team of the CNMI's Public School System (PSS) for school-based peer support. DYS works with SOC by referring juveniles for intervention. Both DYS and SOC compile data that

helps with analyzing data at the end of the year. It is hoped that these services, especially services by SOC and the Public School System help to curtail juveniles away from detention. The end goal being to help keep juveniles out of contact with the justice system and have them re-enter as contributing members of society. The CNMI PSS, for instance, has instructors that teach incarcerated juveniles so that when they re-enter the public school system that their credits are counted back toward their education, allowing them to complete their education and hopefully have them employed as contributing members of the community.

- ***Plan for Juveniles in Detention Awaiting Placement in Residential Treatment Programs***
 - Currently, at the DOC, the juvenile detention population is small. DYS works with Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) to provide counseling for juveniles under probation. Although DOC's primary responsibility is the safety, security of juveniles in secured detention, specialized services for welfare will be coordinated with partnering agencies such as the DYS.

- ***Plan for Family Engagement with Juveniles***
 - CNMI has departments and agencies that work together, such as SOC under the CGC, that spread awareness by conducting outreach events and providing brochures, pamphlets, and other means of public information to youth and their families so they can be aware of their services.
 - The DYS JPU works closely with their assigned juvenile clients from the juvenile's time in detention, appearance in court, attendance during programs and other services that are deemed necessary to the juvenile supported by court order.

- In regards to post-placement, DYS JPU has a set of standard practices described below, that help prepare juvenile clients (juvenile probationers) for re- entering society from juvenile detention.
 - **Ongoing education:** DYS JPU connects with the CNMI PSS Incarcerated Instructor to ensure the juvenile transitions out to their home school with ease. DYS provides clothing, shoes, backpacks, school supplies and/or vouchers to parents to help prepare them for school. Assist with required immunization updates.
 - **Employment:** If the client is unemployed, DYS connects them to CNMI's Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Agency (DOL-WIA) or DOL-Employment Services to register and seek employment with monthly follow-ups from us.
 - **Counseling:** Ensure necessary counseling sessions are completed. Most counseling agencies do follow-ups in approximately three months after they've been discharged. Partnering counseling agencies such as CGC-Systems of Care, CGC-Healthy Transition and Youth Empowerment Solutions have expanded their case management to include assisting our clients seek employment or further their education as their goal.
 - **Other Programs:** Connect clients to CNMI DYS-Family Youth Enhancement Programs (FYEP); avail of group counseling for various programs (Matrix, Botvin, ART), family counseling, parenting class, volunteer, and encourage involvement in our outreach or any DYS community activities.
 - **Housing Situation:** Ensure housing for the juvenile to reside in is safe, drug and alcohol free. For juveniles 18 years of age, DYS JPU encourages or assists them with applying for housing through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC).

- **Independent Living Transition to Learn Life Skills:** Connect clients under the IEP/SPED program who are 18 years to register.
- **Medical Insurance:** Ensure the client is insured and assist with the Medicaid process if qualified.
- **Transportation:** Provide transport or issue Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) bus tickets to assist with any school, employment, medical, counseling and DYS functions.
- ***Plan to utilize community-based services for at-risk youth and juveniles***
 - DYS refers youth who are considered at-risk of serious emotional disturbances to SOC under the CGC. SOC in turn compiles data such as demographic information in order to determine the effectiveness of services to youth. The types of services SOC provides are: 1) Wraparound Care 2) Youth and Family Therapy 3) Youth Peer Support (Natural Helpers) and 4) Outreach (Suicide Prevention, Youth Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention)
- ***Plan for development of adequate research training, and evaluation capacity***
 - Various key agencies have distinctive roles that impact the juvenile justice system and to address juvenile delinquency prevention. It is to be noted that there is no one single entity that notable key agencies in the CNMI that work to improve and take on challenges toward the juvenile justice system are:
 - Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 - Department of Corrections (DOC)
 - Department of Youth Services (DYS)
 - CNMI Youth Affairs Office
 - Commonwealth Healthcare Center (CHCC)
 - CHCC Community Guidance Center (CGC)
 - CNMI Public School System (PSS)

- In previous years, the CJPA had a position close to a Statistical Analyst but over the years funding for that position gradually decreased leaving CJPA without a Statistical Analyst. In 2024, the CJPA applied for the 2024 NCHIP Grant and was awarded funding and is currently awaiting approval of its revised budget. As part of its planning & administration on the budget, CJPA plans to hire a dedicated, CJIS Network Administrator to see through the implementation for the CNMI's first ever cloud-based CJIS Network. This network will serve as a big leap for the CNMI in having all its criminal justice agencies share information, with the CJPA CJIS Network Administrator also able to access the network for the purpose of gathering pertinent, criminal justice information.

Identifying Health Screening and Substance Abuse Screening Services

- Mental health and substance abuse screening are available for juveniles through various avenues. Whether it is a juvenile in secured detention, a juvenile released on probation conditions, or even youth from the community who has never been through the juvenile justice system, health screening services are available to them. Incarcerated youths avail the services through notifying the JDU Officers of DOC of their needs and would often involve the recommendations from the juvenile's legal counsel. From there, the officers will coordinate with the DYS JPU to loop in other partnering agencies. Youth who are released under probation conditions will confide with the DYS JPU as the network entity to coordinate with partnering agencies to achieve locating the best suitable mental health or substance abuse treatment screening services.
- CHCC, the main healthcare facility in the Commonwealth, has a range of services through programs under the CGC and other specialized programs that prioritize mental and behavior health, youth suicide prevention, substance abuse treatment, and youth mental health.

Identifying Screening Methods for Victims of Domestic Human Trafficking

- As human trafficking is a complicated and serious crime in many states and territories, the CNMI provides relevant services and needs to such victims of the crime.
- One example is evident in the services provided by CNMI's Karidat Human Trafficking Program. The program is funded through a DOJ grant, which allows Karidat Advocates to perform casework and aid victims of human trafficking.
 - Clients are pre-certified through an attorney (cases either originate from various

CNMI law firms, Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, or the Micronesian Legal Services). Referrals are addressed to Karidat's Director who then assigns the casework to staff, beginning the start of an intake and then locating appropriate services and needs for the client(s). General services include: food assistance, rental assistance, transportation, and medical assistance

- In the past, there used to be the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition that consisted of various agency representatives from all over the Commonwealth. The main objectives and goals of the Coalition was to assess the essential needs of trafficked youth, coordinate assistance with state/federal partners, and importantly raise awareness of the need to identify trafficked youth. See the 2008 assessment [here](#).

Conclusion

- The CNMI's updated Three-Year State Plan. Drafting, updating, and completion of the Three-Year State Plan would not have been possible without the assistance of DOJ, OJP, OJJDP, CCAS, and CNMI's partnering entities.
- In reference to the CNMI's response to the [33 Requirements](#) there are a number of requirements left pending with a response. CNMI's DSA, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) assures that appropriate communication with the respective entity point of contact has been made with a request of information. As soon as CJPA receives feedback and responses from said entities, content on the Three-Year State Plan will be amended and OJJDP will be notified accordingly.