To provide guidelines on organizational methods, policy execution, financial management and technical assistance to the various agencies and departments. To improve the planning, programming, and budgeting abilities of the government through proper research and recommendations on all aspects of its operations. To ensure that all internal accounting and control systems are operated in accordance with policies, procedures, and laws. To provide advisory guidance to the Governor on policy development, program coordination, and planning and budgeting matters.

The Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) aspires to be a valuable resource by providing expertise and leadership in fiscal matters to all its stakeholders.

- Provide guidance and direction to all government agencies on programmatic and budgetary matters.
- Provide the Governor and Legislature with information and support to effectuate and facilitate policy deliberations and decisions.
- Implement the Governor’s programmatic and fiscal policies.
- Review and implement legislative mandates affecting budgetary and fiscal policies government-wide.
- Conduct ongoing review and evaluation of financial and operational controls of the Government.

**CURRENT STAFF COMPOSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEPUTY DIRECTOR</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;MA SUPERVISORS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;M ANALYST IV</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;M ANALYST III</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;M ANALYST II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;M ANALYST I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIGGING A BIT DEEPER

While at its base the Budget Call is a “call for budgets”, it is also a way to standardize the format and the methodology of budgets across all line agencies. How is this done? Well, apart from the standard budget forms (e.g., budget digests and staffing patterns) the Budget Call also contains guidelines, both general and fiscal year specific, for departments to follow while preparing their budgets. Some examples are as follows:

- All personnel service costs, utilities, and fixed costs must be fully covered as a priority.
- Personnel service costs should be for currently filled positions and for recruitment’s in progress.
- Overtime must be fully justified.
- All anticipated travel must be justified.
- All budget submissions should be presented at maintenance levels, exercising budgetary and fiscal discipline while maintaining critical service needs.

The final guideline listed might raise the question, “But departments submit ‘desired’ budgets, why then is it stated that budgets should be at maintenance level?” The key to this guideline is the phrase “critical service needs”. This is the opportunity for a department to show what the requirements are to run at maximum efficiency. If what a department currently has is not enough, then the “desired” budget is a way to get the conversation started on what is “enough”.

SO ARE WE DONE NOW?

Not quite. Once January 31st has passed and the Governor’s Executive Budget Request has been submitted to the Legislature, the work continues. After all, the Governor’s Executive Budget is a high-level budget request that presents revenue projections, presents line agency programs, estimates federal funding, and proposes budget ceilings for each department.

Hold on, but the department sent in their “desired” budget what more do they need?” Remember the budget ceilings earlier? All “desired” budgets are then reworked into departmental budgets made within the Governor’s ceilings. These departmental budgets are due to the Legislature by mid-March.

The Legislature then has until August 31st to pass a Budget Bill which is transmitted to the Governor. The Governor then has 10 days to review before the bill passes into law. Once these steps are complete do we have the final product of a Government of Guam budget. It is this Budget Act that BBMR and departments use as a guide for ensuring that all operational, personnel, and service requirements are met throughout the fiscal year while still complying with the law.

OUR SCOPE OF WORK

WHERE IT ALL STARTS- THE BUDGET CALL

Every fiscal year, the Government of Guam operates using revenues appropriated through that fiscal year’s Budget Act. The Budget Act is what authorizes the entire government to spend money from the General Fund and Special Funds. But where does this process start?

The Budget Call is a memorandum that is sent out by BBMR between the months of November and December to initiate what is called “the Budget Process”. It is through the Budget Call that several actions are set in motion. After this document is disseminated, departments have until the end of December to submit their “desired” budgets. BBMR reviews each “desired” budget and then creates a budget ceiling. The budget ceiling is determined, using revenue projections produced by BBMR. From this revenue estimate, the Governor determines departmental budget ceilings. These are used to compile the Governor’s Executive Budget Request.

The Governor’s Executive Budget Request is then submitted to the Legislature by January 31st of each fiscal year.
## Workload Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate the preparation of the program and financial plan of the Executive Branch and submission of such plans to the Legislature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Policy Committee Meeting</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet Meetings</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review legislation and provide comments on proposals</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of department request such as contracts, personnel</td>
<td>8,881</td>
<td>9,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>actions, travels authorizations, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Cost Negotiation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial Capital Improvement Project requests to Department of Insular</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,168</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,529</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## BBMR FY2018 Expenditures

- **68%** Spent on Salaries
- **25%** Spent on Benefits
- **3%** Spent on Office Equipment
- **1%** Spent on Contractual Services
- **≥3%** Spent on Travel, Supplies, and Telephone Costs

BBMR received 0.2% of the total government funds to operate for FY2018.

## Expenditures Over the Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Federal Match</th>
<th>Special Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>$1,249,394</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$280,782</td>
<td>$1,539,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>$1,126,144</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$208,192</td>
<td>$1,444,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$1,186,050</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$257,185</td>
<td>$1,444,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$1,017,596</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$325,167</td>
<td>$1,342,763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Indirect Cost Fund

An independent audit of the Government of Guam Wide Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 9/30/18 was conducted, resulting in a clean audit opinion. The audited financial report can be located at the Office of Public Accountability website (www.opaguam.org).
FUTURE OUTLOOK

CHALLENGES

LONG-TERM AND ONGOING

The long-term challenge BBMR must face is the need to rebuild its cadre of Budget and Management Analysts due to the retirement of senior personnel, some who have invested over 30 years and have gained essential institutional knowledge. One senior analyst retired this fiscal year and it is expected that at least four senior Analysts will retire in FY2019. Though the Bureau is currently able to carry out the functions required in order to meet its mandates with current Analysts, the lack of experience due to the retirement of senior Analysts leaves a void of institutional knowledge that will have to be acquired by the junior Analysts in time. Reduced funding and the prohibition on promotions and other pay adjustments only add to the recruitment concern plaguing BBMR because of the inability of current staff to advance professionally.

Additionally, the BBMR regularly addresses the difficult challenge of avoiding a General Fund (GF) deficit at the end of each fiscal year. The primary tool for this endeavor is the fifteen percent (15%) reserve applied to all Executive Branch departments and agencies (where authorized). The reserves are released on an “as needed basis” with compelling justifications. Another effective tool is the scheduling of allotment releases on a twelve (12) month basis. Should there be an urgent need to cover funding deficiencies in each allotted month, advancements of allotments may be considered. Lastly, BBMR reviews Personnel Actions, Travel Authorizations, Contracts, etc. to maintain fiscal control throughout the fiscal year.

OTHER FISCAL CHALLENGES

Other continuing fiscal challenges include the following:

- To cover the full cost of the retirees’ health and dental insurance coverage each fiscal year.
- To identify local funding needed to match the federal matched grants for Medicaid.
- To fully fund the Medical Indigent Program.
- To provide local funding for the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.
- Unfunded federal mandates (EITC).
- Section 30 as a source for war reparations.
- To increase Compact Impact funding for Guam.
- Managing the effects of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

On December 22, 2017, the United States of America passed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 which sought to reduce income tax rates for individual and withholding tax brackets as well as provide significant tax breaks for corporations in the United States of America. Because Guam mirrors the Federal tax code, this Act had directly impacted projected tax revenues on Guam. With the initial $849.7 million in projected General Fund Revenues for Fiscal Year 2018 through Public Law 34-42, the negative impact to local governmental operations were anticipated. The overall 20.95% reduction in Total Income Tax collection had promulgated the enactment of Public Law 34-87 in an effort to sustain government functions without resorting to personnel furloughs. To offset the scaling down of revenues, the Bureau in conjunction with the Office of Finance and Budget identified a set of reduced net government appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018 by not less than Thirty Million Dollars ($30,000,000) as compared to Public Law 34-42. The Fiscal Realignment Plan for Fiscal Year 2018 was a culmination of government cuts, the anticipation of revenue reductions, and the temporary increase of the Business Privilege Tax collection from 4% to 5%.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What are your thoughts on this report?
Would you like to see other information included?
Please let us know by contacting our office at
(671) 475-9412.
http://www.bbmr.guam.gov/
Fwd: 2018 Citizen Centric Report
1 message

Benjamin Cruz <bjcruz@guamopa.com>  Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 5:21 PM
To: vduenas@guamopa.com, tbagana@guamopa.com, jhernandez@guamopa.com, edalisay@guamopa.com, croque@guamopa.com

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Janessa Blas <janessa.blas@bbmr.guam.gov>
Date: August 16, 2019 at 5:04:49 PM GMT+10
To: bjcruz@guamopa.com
Cc: Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, BBMR Supervisors <supervisors@bbmr.guam.gov>
Subject: 2018 Citizen Centric Report

Hafa Adai Public Auditor Cruz,

Pursuant to Public Law 30-127, transmitted as attached is the Bureau's FY2018 Citizen Centric Report.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau at 475-9412.

Thank you and have a great day!

Janessa Blas
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Bureau of Budget and Management Research
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P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Phone: (671) 300-1231
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