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Government of Guam

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Direktor

MICHAEL D. WEAKLEY
Sigundo Direktor

January 21, 2024

Mr. Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Public Auditor
Suite 401 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Fiscal Year 2022 Citizen Centric Report

Håfa Adai,

Transmitted herewith is the Department of Youth Affairs Citizen Centric Report for fiscal year 2022 in compliance with Title I Guam Code Annotated Chapter 19 §1922 (a).

A copy of our FY2022 Citizen Centric Report will be submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor and to the Speaker of the 37th Liheslaturan Guahan. Furthermore, a digital copy may also be found on our website at <http://dya.guam.gov/citizen-centric-report/>.

Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact via email at melanie.brennan@dya.guam.gov or at 671-735-5010.

Senseramente,

Melanie W. Brennan



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

Citizen Centric Report

FISCAL YEAR 2022

OCT 2021 - SEPT 2022



LEADERSHIP

DIRECTOR

Melanie W. Brennan

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Michael D. Weakley

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR

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Jeannette C. Toves

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MISSION

The mission of the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) is to improve the quality of life on Guam for all people by development and implementation of programs and services that promote positive youth development, decrease juvenile delinquency and status offenses, hold youth accountable for their actions and provide them with appropriate treatment and opportunities to succeed in the community.

ABOUT US

The Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) operates three fully staffed community resource centers and the only youth correctional facility in Guam with a dedicated team committed to better responding to youth who intersect with the juvenile justice system. Although our mission was rerouted by a global pandemic that changed how we work, live and navigate our daily lives, our collective struggle provided new opportunities to form partnerships, share resources, and better serve youth and families in their communities and in their homes.

2022 ushered in the end of the pandemic public health emergency declaration and represented great progress for DYA, focusing on system enhancement through the acquisition of our first-ever automated case management system; a much needed on campus partnership with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC); the initiation of a comprehensive system evaluation by technical assistance partners from the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice; and the successful coordination of the largest Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program, boasting over 1,300 youth participants.

But our work with vulnerable and marginalized youth in our community, many with learning disabilities and mental health conditions, continues to be a priority concern. The overarching goal of the juvenile justice system is to hold youthful offenders accountable for wrongdoing and reduce re-offense; by better serving juveniles in their communities through appropriate prevention, intervention, positive youth development opportunities and reducing the use of corrective sanctions and over-reliance on secure placement, we stand a better chance at improving their outcomes.

To do this, we must better respond to youth in the system; in ways that are developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, cause less harm and help support economically disadvantaged and disproportionate minority youth that are over represented in every juncture of our system. Our vision requires collaborative leadership, effective system improvement and a commitment to sustainable change. We look forward to the progress we will make on these goals in 2023!

GOALS

- ◇ Improve conditions of confinement for youth residents in secure care
- ◇ Reduce the recidivism rate of youth remanded to the Youth Correctional Facility (YCF)
- ◇ Increase and enhance the quantity and quality of youth programs and services for youth residents
- ◇ Increase programs that divert youth from delinquency and status offenses

OBJECTIVES

- ◇ Ensure staff are qualified and trained to work with youth, understand adolescent behavior and are trauma informed
- ◇ Maintain proper facilities and equipment upgraded facilities
- ◇ Develop and implement effective and efficient youth programs and services
- ◇ Establish partnerships and identify resources that will effectively carry out our mission

OUR EMPLOYEES

Division	2020	2021	2022
Director's Office	3	3	3
Youth Development	19	17	18
Youth Corrections	46	47	43
Vocational Rehabilitation & Support Services	9	9	10





YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (YCF) AND COTTAGE HOMES FACILITY (CHF)

The Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) houses residents charged with delinquent offenses in secure care dormitories while, a separate, staff secure dormitory, called Cottage Homes (CHF) is used for status offenders. Upon admission/intake, youth residents are assigned to dormitories taking into consideration the person's developmental status, maturity, social skills, behavioral history, age, size, intensity of their alleged offense, personality, background, and other factors that might influence their adjustment at DYA. Operational practices reinforce our commitment to respect the dignity of all individuals, including transgender and gender non-conforming young persons, to create a safe environment for all by adhering to mandates of the Prison Rape Elimination Act for Juvenile Facilities.

DYA offers an array of positive youth development opportunities to our residents throughout their stay. Evidence based and culturally responsive programming is preferred, but are based on availability. In addition, assigned social workers provide individualized engagement, encourage family and community engagement when approved and authorized by the court. Additionally, individual and group counseling is provided by a Licensed Family Therapist/Care Coordinator.

Community partners and religious organizations provide a rich curriculum of activities, events, services and programs to help meet the complex needs of the youth we serve. Programs offered in the facility provide education and life skills along with opportunities for teens to build competencies.

Behavioral Health Services are provided to all youth residents at DYA through the Guam Behavior Health and Wellness Center through a Community Mental Health Grant. Behavioral Health services include crisis intervention, behavioral health assessment, drug and alcohol services, case management, referrals, and linkage to other services. Most of our residents' medical needs are met within the facility, however on occasion, DYA may transport a resident to a clinic or hospital if necessary.

Liheng Famaguon is the the educational program within DYA, operated by five certified instructors from the Guam Department of Education. Students are provided with a quality educational program that responds to their different learning styles and abilities and prepares them for high school graduation, career entry, and/or post-secondary education

Our professional staff are trauma informed and recognize and respect the dignity of those detained at DYA and demonstrate a level of dedication and compassion to meet the complex needs of the young people in our custody.

Table 1. DYA Admissions for FY2020 - FY2022

Year	FY2020			FY2021			FY2022		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total Admission	212	180	32	74	62	12	239	215	24
1 st contact	74	58	16	36	27	9	98	83	15
2 nd or more contacts	138	122	16	38	35	3	141	132	9
Recidivism		65.28%			65.09%			59%	

Table 2. DYA Admissions by Top Offenses for FY2019 - FY2021

Type of Offense	FY2020			FY2021			FY2022		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Non-Criminal Related									
Beyond Control	60	47	13	28	20	8	54	46	8
Violation of Court Order	43	36	7	16	14	2	66	59	7
Curfew Violation	16	15	1	3	3	0	9	9	0
Criminal Related									
Family Violence	26	17	9	19	17	2	7	4	3
Assault	30	20	10	12	10	2	28	24	4
Burglary	29	29	0	9	9	0	21	21	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0

What would you like to see reported on this page? Please let us know by contacting Cherika T.M. Diego at (671) 735-5010 or email cheruka.diego@dya.guam.gov.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Lagu Youth Resource Center
Kattan Youth Resource Center
Haya Youth Resource Center*

COUNSELING CASE



Youth Development Division's (YD) detailed staff returned to DYA throughout 2022 and quickly focused on reopening the Youth Resource Centers. Among the programs that resumed were our widely recognized community kids' program, community mentorship, and crisis intervention services.

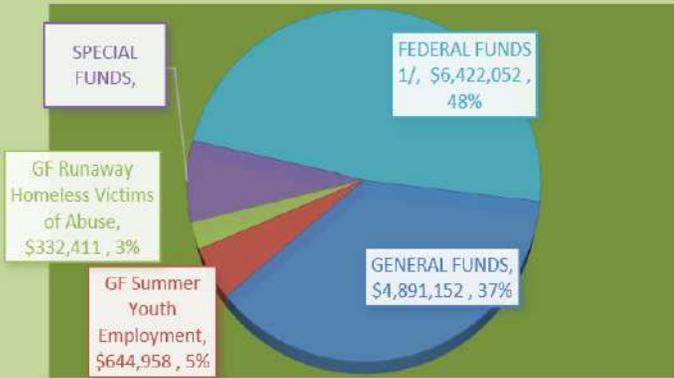
Support services and case management were still provided to the residents in confinement by the Case Management Unit (CMU). CMU worked in conjunction with groups including Sisters of Mercy, Guam Elite Basketball, WestCare Pacific Islands, Mañe'lu, Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO), UOG Press, and the island community to organize events and programs that encouraged spirituality, education, and empowerment for the residents.

The YD team felt a renewed feeling of optimism preparing for Youth Month and traditional positive youth development events to include the Oratorical Contest and Island Leadership Day. This year's theme: Strength in Unity found both middle and high schoolers competing for the coveted positions of Governor (high school competitors) and Lt. Governor (middle school contestants).

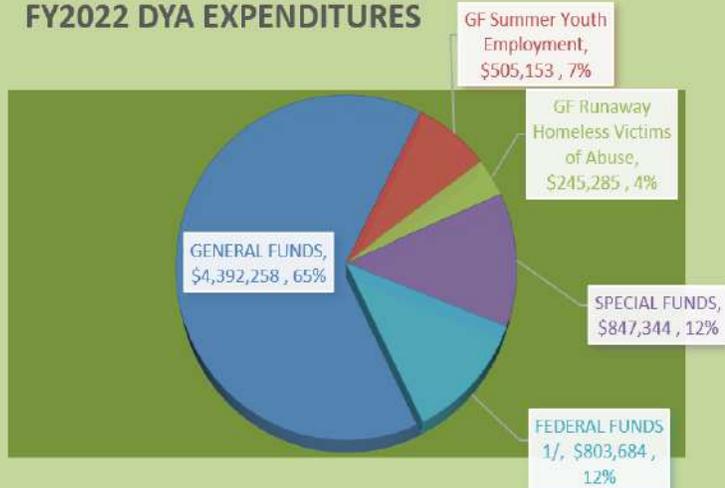
Additionally, YD diligently carried out the Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program (GSYEP), a six-week paid program that offered a variety of career possibilities by providing entry-level job experience at Government of Guam agencies for youth aged 14-17 years. The program boasted over 1300 participants.

FINANCES

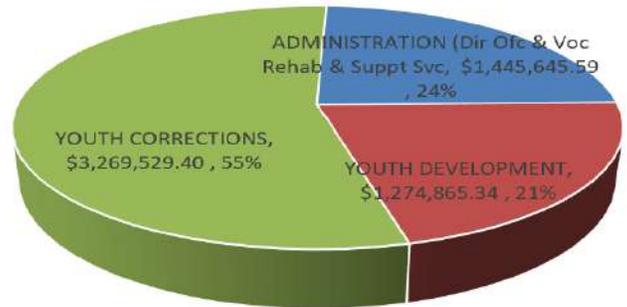
FY2022 DYA FUND SOURCE



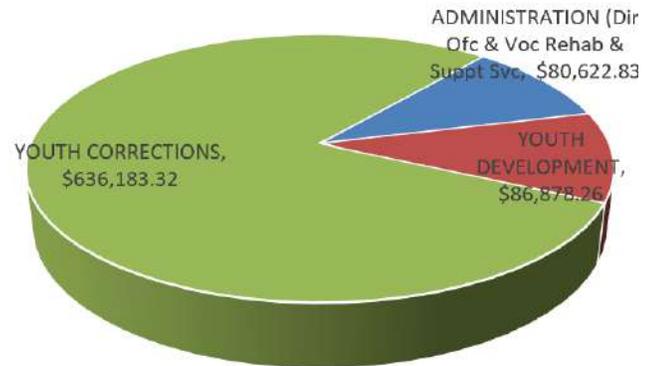
FY2022 DYA EXPENDITURES



EXPENDITURES LOCAL



EXPENDITURES FEDERAL



FTE	Filled	Vacant
87	72	15

During Fiscal Year 2022, Vocational Rehabilitation and Support Services was instrumental in obtaining the Authorization to Proceed from the Department of Interior for a new Administration Bldg/Maintenance and Supply Depot's Design/Build funded by DOI Capital Improvement Projects. This was necessary as the current temporary buildings which are more than 40 years old is becoming an unsafe work environment. Concurrent approval for much needed upgrade projects for our Youth Correctional Facility and Resource Centers, are also in the Department of Interior's approval process at this time.

CHALLENGES

- ◇ Sustainable funding source for the successful Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program and other positive youth development activities will continue to be a challenge throughout the new fiscal year. A status quo budget presents obstacles when trying to expand and improve our work with the children, youth and families we serve. They face complex issues and we must increase supportive programs and services that generate the best outcomes while making the most of limited resources.
- ◇ The recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers (LEO) is an ongoing challenge facing multiple LEO agencies on Guam. Limited manpower, impacts ideal supervision ratios and staff morale. In addition, personnel shortages contribute to increases in overtime and burnout.
- ◇ The antiquated Youth Correctional Facility continues to be a major concern; just as important to our work on steadily decreasing the use of detention to improve youth outcomes, we must also commit to building a secure care facility that comports with the therapeutic and safe environment necessary for a juvenile corrections setting.
- ◇ Personnel training and 24/7 evidence-based programming for youth residents

OUTLOOK

There is much good work still to be done and DYA looks forward to full utilization of the newly acquired Case Management System, associated training and data generated, real-time reports. With digital record keeping and data analysis, we will be better positioned to update policy and practice with evidence-based information.

Additionally, the comprehensive review by technical assistance partners, the RFK Resource Center for Juvenile Justice will culminate in a final report with recommendations for improve system performance and enhance conditions of confinement through appropriate programming and supervision.

We recognize the need for continued collaborative leadership and partnerships to achieve our vision and reconfirm our commitment to the youth we serve.

All previous Citizen Centric Reports can be found on our website at dya.guam.gov



Office of Public Accountability - Guam <admin@guamopa.com>

DYA FY2022 Citizen Centric Report

1 message

Cherika Diego <cherika.diego@dya.guam.gov>

Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 4:57 PM

To: speaker@guamlegislature.org, bjacruz@guamopa.com, "admin@guamopa.com" <admin@guamopa.com>

Cc: officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org, Melanie Brennan <melanie.brennan@dya.guam.gov>,

"michael.weakley@guam.gov" <michael.weakley@guam.gov>, Jeannette Toves <jeannette.toves@dya.guam.gov>

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached Department of Youth Affairs Citizen Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2022.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or at 735-5010. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email. Thank you.

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Respectfully,
Cherika Theresa M. Diego
Private Secretary

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2 attachments**Department of Youth Affairs, FY2022 CCR Cover Letter.pdf**
29K**Department of Youth Affairs, FY2022 CCR.pdf**
1138K