

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

(Attachment 1)

INTRODUCTION

State Overview:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the youngest member of the United States political family and one of its most diverse, distant, and isolated Commonwealth territory. Geographically, the CNMI is located in the tropical western Pacific region of Micronesia and is approximately 1,300 miles south of Tokyo, 1,400 miles east of Manila, and about 3,200 miles west of Honolulu. Comprised of a chain of 14 islands, the CNMI is home to a population of about 65,927 people, according to the 2005 CNMI-HIES Report. The majority of this population resides on the island of Saipan, with Tinian and Rota islands accounting for nearly all the rest. The indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people and many children of non-resident workers in the CNMI are United States citizens. The CNMI's historical event of their first Non-voting Representative to the U.S. Congress became a reality in 2008 after the passing of U.S. H.R. PL 3079: 110th Congress call the Northern Mariana Islands Delegate Act on December 11, 2007.

Program Commitment:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands proposes to use funds made available under the 2014 JAG to continue to support critical criminal justice line agencies in its effort to combat and prevent criminal activities..

Overall Goal:

The ultimate goal of this submission is to officially endorse the need to continue funding of many local programs and projects in the CNMI, in which through best practices, addressing crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.

Anticipated Coordination Effort:

As the State Administering Agency for funds from the Department of Justice, the CJPA will continue to coordinate activities and efforts in addressing criminal activities in the CNMI with other DOJ funds that CJPA is administering.

The State Administering Agency:

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA), Office of the Governor is the designated state administering agency (DSAA) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) for all U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) formula grant programs.

Addition to preparing and submitting of the JAG application, CJPA also shoulder the responsibility to coordinating among all listed state law enforcement agencies and local justice initiatives best efforts to assure effective implementation of JAG program funds. The Criminal Justice Planning Agencies is fully committed to continue to comply with responsibilities required under JAG grant programs. These requirements includes: monitoring sub-grantees, assure compliance with all JAG special conditions and provisions, providing ongoing technical assistance to sub-recipients, timely submission of financial and programmatic reports, including performance measure data and sub-grant information as requested.

As described under JAG Program Specific Information, CJPA will use the 10 percent of the state award to secure the management and implementation of JAG funds requirements.

Summary of activities expected to be funded:

In support of the main purpose area of the FY13 JAG application, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will use the entire 10 percent for planning and administration of the JAG program. The remaining funds will be use for the implementation of the program. The budget detail for this request is summarized in the budget attachment. The remaining ninety (90) percent of the funds will be subgranted out to some of the following agencies and programs based on critical needs as determined by the Supervisory Council. The majority of funds will be used for priorities identified by the Supervisory Council during the strategic planning session in February 2012.

Criminal Justice Information System:

The CJIS is an on-going project designed to automate the CNMI's criminal records, develop criminal history records, and link the various criminal justice organizations such as the courts, public safety, corrections, prosecution, immigration, customs, and the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The program upon completion will identify, track, and report convicted felons and can be readily access by the agencies involve in the project.

Summary of Activities to be funded:

- Update / Repair Backbone Infrastructure
- Update All Server Anti-virus
- Security and Database Training for IT personnel
- Replace old equipments and Servers for CJIS Network
- Purchase support from RMS / CMS Vendors.
- System Administrator Salary
- To exonerate the infestations (Rats) that is eating the fiber optic lines that connect all agencies in Susupe Area.

The Judiciary:

The CNMI Judiciary includes the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. The CNMI Supreme Court is the appellate court with jurisdiction to hear appeals of final judgments and orders from the CNMI Superior Court. Escalation of appeals from the CNMI Supreme Court is now only to the United States Supreme Court. Headed by a Presiding Judge and staffed by four additional associate judges, the CNMI Superior Court is the Commonwealth's trial court division. The court maintains general jurisdiction over all civil, criminal and juvenile matters, including all levels of trial court proceedings. Court administration includes: the Office of the Presiding Judge, the Office of the Clerk of the Court, the Family Court Division, and the Marshall's Service Unit.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will be use to provided support for the operation of the Judiciary programs. Programs funded may include the Probation Office, the Family Court and the Superior Court Operation.

Office of the Attorney General:

The CNMI Office of the Attorney General (OAG) serves as the top law enforcement authority in the Commonwealth. The OAG is responsible for handling the filing and prosecution of criminal cases for the Commonwealth. The Office of the Attorney General has five divisions: (1) Criminal Prosecution Division; (2) Civil Division; (3) Solicitors Division; (4) Intergovernmental/Covenant Division; and (5) Immigration Division. The Criminal Prosecution Division is headed by a chief prosecutor and staffed by six attorneys, one of whom is assigned to prosecute 100% of juvenile cases in the CNMI. Recently, the OAG had just appointed a new Juvenile Prosecutor that is supported by the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws programs.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will be use to support the programs of the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General. This includes the Divisions participation in the Drug Task Force and for the support of their case tracking management system.

The Department of Public Safety:

The CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS) serves as the public safety authority for the Commonwealth. The DPS is responsible for providing public safety services to all three islands, under 5 major divisions: (1) Police; (2) Fire and emergency medical services (EMS); (3) Administration; (4) Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB); and (5) Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). The Police Division is further divided into 6 major units: (a) Patrol; (b) Traffic; (c) Logistics; (d) Boating Safety; (e) Domestic/Juvenile Unit; and (f) Human Smuggling and Trafficking.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will provide support to the various department programs. This includes the Drug Task Force, Police improvement programs, the Police Delinquency prevention programs, and other continuing programs.

The Office of the Public Defender:

The Office of the Public Defender is tasked as the court appointed counsel for most juveniles who come in contact with the law that require representation. The Public Defender's has designated a specific Juvenile Defender to handle 100% of juvenile cases and is currently supported by the OJJDP, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and the Justice Assistance Grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will continue to provide operational support for the Public Defenders programs.

The Board of Parole Office:

The NMI Office of Parole serves as the staff of the seven Board of Parole members for the Commonwealth. It is a quasi-judicial agency of the CNMI government with statutory responsibility in granting and revoking parole. In addition to the statutory responsibility, the Board of Parole office staff works to assure the completeness and accuracy of parole investigation reports and records, including handling of files of parolee cases for the Commonwealth.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will continue to provide operational support for the Parole's Office ongoing programs. Pre-approved for purchase of vehicle for Office of Parole operations.

The Office of Adult Probation:

The Office of Adult Probation is part of court administration, with the Chief Probation Officer reporting to the Presiding Judge.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will continue to provide support for the Probations programs such as training and assistance to its case management system. Pre-approved for purchase of vehicle for Office of Adult Probation operations.

The Department of Corrections:

The NMI Department of Corrections (DOC) manages the inmate population across all short- and long-term detention and prison facilities for the Commonwealth, including federal facilities. The DOC is responsible for the intake, classification, housing, and release of sentenced offenders. The Department of Corrections is headed by a Corrections Commissioner and is divided into the following sections as part of the Department's facility; Central Male Detention Unit which houses pre-trial inmates and arrestees; Medium Security Housing Unit; Female Housing Management Unit; Special Management Housing Unit, and a Minimum Security Housing Unit. A new 354 beds facility has been completed and has just recently become fully operational. The Department of Correction is an adult only institution and no juveniles are permitted to enter the facility.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will continue to provide additional support for the departments operation. This includes assistance to its case management system and training for its staff.

CNMI Drug Task Force:

The CNMI Drug Task Force Consists of the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Public Safety and Customs Division under the Department of Finance. The task force comprise of one Attorney General, DOF Division of Customs Service, and the Criminal Investigation Section from the Department of Public Safety. The primary purpose of the Task Force is to conduct investigations with regards to violations of controlled laws with the CNMI and to prosecute all offenders charged as a result of its investigation. The Task Force is also organized for the purpose of promoting a coordinated law enforcement and prosecution effort throughout the CNMI and to encourage maximum cooperation and sharing of available.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds will be use to continue the Drug Task Force effort in reducing and combating drug activities in the CNMI. Funds will be use for the operation of the Task Force and for Confidential Informant Funds

Other Criminal Justice Service Providers:

The CJPA will also solicit other criminal justice service providers to apply for the funds. This may include other government agencies and nonprofit agencies that also provide criminal justice services and support to the community.

Summary of activities to be funded:

The funds awarded will depend on the respective applicants need in providing critical criminal justice services to the community.

Strategic Planning for CNMI: Technical Assistance After Action Report

The Commonwealth for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System Strategic Planning Session was in February 8 & 9, 2012 that came up with the **three (3) year Strategic Planning** for the CNMI. The following identified the priorities:

Six staff members of the CNMI CIPA met with Mr. Cropper individually and as a group to provide information and plan the work session of the Criminal Justice Supervisory Council.

Six of the nine members (or their designees) of the Criminal Justice Supervisory Council participated in a 12 hour (over two days) working session to identify challenges in eight practice areas and to identify priorities for the 2012-2014 grant funding cycle.

Twelve individuals representing six practice areas and two non-profit providers participated in the briefing for CIPA stakeholders and sub-grantees following the Supervisory Council work session.

The agendas for the Supervisory Council Working Session and the Stakeholders Briefing are attached.

The agencies that participated in the strategic planning were Department of Public Safety, Karidat, Guma Esperansa, Public Defenders Office, Community Guidance Center, Family Court, Division of Customs and Division of Youth Services.

The goals for three priority areas for the 2012-2014 grant funding cycle identified by the Supervisory Council are:

- *Fully operationalize the criminal justice information system.* The CIPA received technical assistance from the IJIS Institute on the design of the CJIS system. CIPA purchased hardware and software for participating agencies, but little progress has been made in making the system functional. As a result of the working session, CIPA staff recruited a replacement chair for the CJIS committee and set a date for the committee to meet.
- *To increase capacity of law enforcement to provide effective public safety services.* Working with the Department of Public Safety, the CIPA will target grant solicitations to implement evidence based policing programs and strategies.