

Addendum to CNMI DOL CCR

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT - FY 2020

CNMI State Workforce Development Board

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-SWDB Vision-

“To promote a workforce development system that meets the needs of businesses, job seekers, and workers to support a strong and vibrant economy in the CNMI.”

-SWDB Mission-

“To empower, integrate, implement, and innovate the workforce needs of the CNMI.”

The CNMI State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) formerly known as the State Workforce Investment Board, is responsible for assisting the Governor in performing the duties and responsibilities required by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. All members of the SWDB are appointed by the Governor and represent the many facets of workforce development. It is represented by leaders from business, labor, higher education, economic development, youth activities, employment and training, as well as the legislature. The SWDB's goals revolve around providing opportunities for qualified individuals to earn livable wages, have upward mobility in their careers, obtain workforce credentials, to develop their skills through training, and/or become career or college ready. The SWDB also aims to create a data driven workforce environment that aligns components within the workforce system, and inventory and align the workforce skills needs of private sector employers and businesses with the education, service, and training provider offerings.



SWDB Composition:

Chair: Josephine DLG. Mesta - Private Sector Representative;

Vice Chair: Annie G. Hayes - Private Sector Representative;

Secretary/Treasurer: Polly DLG. Masga - Private Sector Representative

- Members -

**Wayne Sanchez - Private Sector Representative; Velma Palacios - Private Sector Representative
Bertha Leon Guerrero - Private Sector Representative; Nicole Babauta - SBDC Representative;
Vicky Benavente, Governor's Representative; Senator Sixto Igisomar - CNMI Senate Representative;
Representative Ralph N. Yumul - CNMI House of Representatives;
Lorraine Maui - Adult Education Core Partner; David Attao - WIOA Title I Partner;
Maryann B. Arriola - Vocational Rehabilitation Core Partner**

The SWDB's Progress is carried out through the programs and services provided by the CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency.

*As a division within CNMI DOL, DOL WIA's Citizen Centric Report was embedded into the original submission of DOL's overall Citizen Centric Report. Provided in this addendum are additional information requested.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Effectiveness in Serving Employers and Workers: The CNMI SWDB through the CNMI Department of Labor, in particular the DOL Workforce Investment Agency (DOL WIA), worked closely to support and improve opportunities for both employers and workers before and during these challenging times, through the following activities:

2020-2023 WIOA State Plan.

The SWDB focused on the State Workforce Development planning process and successfully secured the CNMI's 2020-2023 State Workforce Development Plan.

Grant Support.

The SWDB extended its support for the following grant applications:

1. State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE), a USDOL Office of Apprenticeship Grant, now awarded to the Northern Marianas College.
2. Youth Apprenticeship Grant (YAG), a USDOL Office of Apprenticeship Grant

Ongoing Activities.

The SWDB extended its support for the following DOL WIA Activities:

1. WIOA Funding for PY/FY 2020-2023;
 - a. Estimated to support over 150 individuals each year;
2. National Dislocated Worker Grant Extension;
 - a. Continued to serve over 50 up to December 2020
3. Awarded Covid-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant;
 - a. Ongoing grant revision to increase support for Covid-19 temporary employment from 44 to 400 and an additional 270 to receive education and training in areas of need.
4. Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) Grant;
 - a. Ongoing recruitment of Employers and Incumbent Employees

Workforce Resource Fair.

The SWDB held a Workforce Resource Fair for members of the community affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Over 202 individuals were reached through this event.

Restructuring of SWDB Committees.

The SWDB restructured its committees in order to align policies, procedures, programs, activities, responsibilities, and funding to the State Plan. The new committees are:

1. Executive Committee:
 - a. Provides Executive Oversight of the SWDB;
 - b. Reviews and Hears Grievances;
2. Policies and Procedures Committee:
 - a. Reviews and Approves Policies for Federal and Local Compliance;
 - b. Reviews and Recommends Procedures for Program Operations;
3. Program Committee:
 - a. Reviews Eligible Training Provider Applications and submits recommendation to the overall SWDB;
 - b. Assists with the review of Work Experience Program applications and submits recommendations to the Department/Division; and
4. Planning, Assessment, Evaluation and Research Committee:
 - a. Leads planning process for CNMI State Plan;
 - b. Provides recommendations for Assessment and Evaluation Process;
 - c. Recommends Research Projects

The SWDB receives most of its funding to run its programs and services through the formula funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) of 2014 and/or other discretionary grants as applicable. The WIOA funds allow for programs to use the revenue provided over a 3-year Program (July 1 - June 30) or Fiscal Year (October 01 - September 30) Periods: The breakdown for funds received from WIOA follows:

Total WIOA Funds for fiscal year 2020: \$1,478,677.00

- Adult Funding Stream: \$417,183.00
 - o Program Year: \$66,059.00
 - o Fiscal Year: \$351,124.00

- Dislocated Worker Funding Stream: \$622,430.00
 - o Program Year: \$58,956.00
 - o Fiscal Year: \$563,474.00

- Youth Funding Stream: \$439,064.00
 - o Program Year: \$439,064.00

Total Discretionary (Competitive Grants) Funds: \$3,359,218.00

- National Dislocated Worker Grant: \$1,779,218.00
 - o Sept 2019 to December, 2020: \$1,841,563.00 (Second Phase of \$2.7M)

- Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant: \$80,000.00
 - o July 2019: \$80,000.00 First Phase of 3-Year \$445,908.40

- Covid-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant: \$1,500,000.00
 April 2020 (Grant Revisions Ongoing)

CNMI DOL Appropriated Funds

The SWDB does not receive any direct local funds, however through the CNMI Department of Labor, a portion of DOL's budget is budgeted for personnel expenses. These figures have been reported in the overall CNMI Department of Labor Citizen Centric Report.

WHAT'S NEXT: CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

- Implementation of 2020 - 2023 CNMI State Plan
 - Fill vacant positions on SWDB;
 - Update SWDB membership to include the recommendations mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration
 - Labor Union Representatives or
 - U.S. Registered Apprenticeship Training Providers;
- Program Committee Review of:
 - Education Training Provider Applications;
 - Work Experience Program Applications;
- Planning, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Committee:
 - Recommend Processes for Assessment, Evaluations, and Research Activities

We value your comments or suggestions.

Would you like to see other information included in this report? Please let us know by calling our DOL Workforce Investment Act Office at (670) 664-1708 or emailing us at cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp. For more information visit our website at www.marianaslabor.net.



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