



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CNMI Council On Developmental Disabilities

Assistive Technology Program



WHAT'S INSIDE: 1. ABOUT US 2. PERFORMANCE 3. FINANCIAL 4. OUTLOOK

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FY 2025



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CDD MISSION:



It is the mission of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities to bring about necessary systemic change in order to promote the lives of persons with developmental disabilities. This will assure that the service network is providing persons with developmental disabilities the programs necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential.

CDD STATE PLAN GOALS:

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy – Leadership & Advocacy



- **Objective 1.2 (Train Self-Advocates):**
 - ◊ Supported trainings/events such as the *Self-Advocate Leader Training* and *UCEDD Summit*.
 - ◊ At least **28 self-advocates** and **25 family members** gained knowledge in leadership and advocacy.
- **Objective 1.3 (Public Policy & Engagement):**
 - ◊ Co-hosted the *Champions of Equal Opportunity Ceremony*
 - ◊ Co-facilitated *Local Disability Policy Seminar*
 - ◊ Mentored emerging leaders through VOICES and UCEDD HEROES program.
 - ◊ Outcomes: Self-advocates actively engaged in policy making, recognition events, and culturally diverse leadership activities.

Goal 2: Community Services Improvement

- **Objective 2.2 (Transition):**
 - ◊ Co-hosted *Inclusive Practices in Higher Education*
 - ◊ Co-facilitated the *Family Transition Symposiums*
- **Objective 2.6 (Respite Care):**
 - ◊ Delivered *Childcare Provider Trainings: Access & Accommodations*
 - ◊ Increased the pool of trained respite caregivers to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Objective 2.8 (Emergency Preparedness):**
 - ◊ Co-facilitated the *Disability Sensitivity Training for First Responders* in collaboration with DD Network Partners.
 - ◊ Enhanced first responders' preparedness to support individuals with disabilities in emergencies.

ATP MISSION:



To provide and demonstrate how Assistive Technology can transform limitations into opportunities. We work toward this mission by providing access to Assistive Technology and related services that enable individuals with disabilities to achieve productivity, independence, and success according to their needs and interests.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Felipe M. Aquino Jr., Chairman**
- Miracle M. Hocog, Vice Chairwoman**
- Cherry Mae Penaranda, Secretary**
- Eileen A. Babauta, State Plan Chairperson**
- Anna Leah Castillon, Saipan**
- Claire Bang, Saipan**
- Doricyn Taitingfong, Saipan**
- Efren Nicolas, Saipan**
- Evander Iderbei, Saipan**
- Florence Bhuiyan, Saipan**
- Glory Legaspi, Saipan**
- Hong (Ivan) Wang, Saipan**
- Maxine Pangelinan, Saipan**
- Menencio Alulod, Saipan**
- Rico Morales, Saipan**
- Rita Cruz, Saipan**
- Rosemina H. Poll, Rota**
- Arlene Yamagata, OVR**
- Donna Flores, PSS**
- George Cruz, Medicaid**
- Gregory Borja - NMPASI**
- Heather Pangelinan, MICAH**

ATP GOALS:



- Establish a lease-to-own program
- Provide Website Accessibility Training
- Collaborate with Transition Training
- Work with DD Network Trainings (Academies)
- Continue to provide Technical Assistance
- Participate in DNP Activities



Overall Impact:

The Council successfully advanced its FY 2025 work plan by expanding leadership opportunities for self-advocates, strengthening transition pathways for students with disabilities, expanding respite care capacity, and improving emergency preparedness in the CNMI.

CDD GOAL 1: SELF ADVOCACY (LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY)

Objectives: 2

Key Activities: 6

Total Participants in Goal 1: 944

CDD GOAL 2: COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

Objectives: 2

Key Activities: 4

Total Participants in Goal 2: 140



TOTAL OUTREACH EVENTS PARTICIPATED: 12
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 834
TOTAL TRAINING EVENTS PARTICIPATED: 21
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 1256



Key Quantitative Outcomes (FY 2025 to date)

- Over 1,100 individuals reached across all goals and activities.
- 300+ self-advocates and family members directly engaged in leadership, policy, and self-advocacy activities.
- 200+ students/families supported through transition-focused events.
- 88 childcare providers trained in respite care and accommodations.
- 23 first responders trained in disability sensitivity.



Purpose:



The Technology Partners Increasing Employment through Coordinated Services (Tech PIECS) Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) under the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) grant, provides personalized advanced technology services combined with transition and reintegration supports for disconnected youth and adults (DYA) with disabilities in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The project aims to increase independence, educational attainment, and competitive Integrated employment (CIE) outcomes.

Expected Outcomes:

- At least 40 DYAs with disabilities supported with advanced technology and transition services per year
- Increased education, employment, and independence
- Greater adoption of assistive and advanced technology
- Sustainable system of coordinated services across the CNMI



CDD FUNDING SOURCE:



The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is established under CNMI P.L. 12-10 and U.S. Public law 106-402). Our Council is federally funded, self-governing organization charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in our territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help these individuals gain more control over their lives.



2401MPSCDD

Project 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2025

- 1. Notice of Partial Award Received – October 27, 2023 \$35,920.00
- 2. Notice of Partial Award Received – Dec.15, 2023 \$57,648.00
- 3. Notice of Partial Award Received – March 15, 2024 \$36,686.00
- 4. Notice of Partial Award Received – May 17, 2025 \$143,736.00
- 5. Notice of Partial Award Received – Sept. 18, 2025 \$ 636.00

Total Award: \$274,626.00

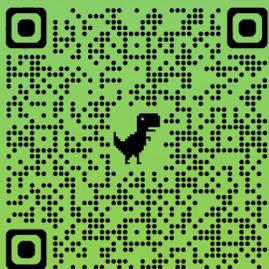
Due to US Government Continuing Resolution the Council received the partial notice of awards above.

Fiscal Year 2025

Reporting Period: 10/1/24-9/30/25

Federal Share of Expenditure: \$214,920.35
 Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations: \$15,012.57
 Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds: \$35,501.73
 (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award–Federal Share of Expenditures–Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)

FOR PREVIOUS BUDGET INFORMATION PLEASE SCAN OUR QR CODE:



DIF FUNDING SOURCE:



The Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) program grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the Rehabilitation Services Administration. The Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD's) role is to:

- Provide Technology assessments (BPD tool);
- Individualized Tech Plans (MPT);
- Assistive technology training;
- IT staff recruitment/hiring;
- Family peer supports.



DISABILITY INNOVATION FUND



(2024-2029)

Year 1 - \$273,865



Carry-over of \$218,137.61 requested for Year 2, due to delays in implementation of CNMI TECH PIECS during Year 1, the joint project was unable to fully execute planned activities.

ATP FUNDING SOURCE:



The Office of Interagency Innovation within ACL's Center for Innovation and Partnership oversees the State Grant for Assistive Technology Program and the Assistive Technology National Activities funded under the Assistive Technology Act (AT Act of 2004). The State Grant for Assistive Technology Program is a federal formula grant that supports state efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer responsive. The State Grant for Assistive Technology Program makes assistive technology devices and services more available and accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families.

FY 2025 ATP FUNDING

\$125,845

KEY PRIORITIES:



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." H. Ford

The Five-Year State Plan

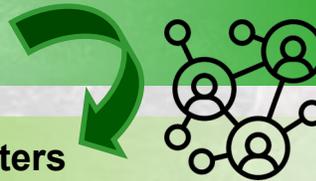
Every five years, each DD Council across the United States and its territories develops a State Plan that sets priorities and goals based on the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in their jurisdiction. The CNMI Council's plan serves as a roadmap for how federal funds will be used to:

- Improve services and supports for individuals with DD and their families.
- Demonstrate new ways that people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and participate in their communities.
- Promote collaboration among government agencies, nonprofits, and families.
- Developing the 2027–2031 State Plan

The Council is now preparing its next plan, the 2027– 2031 CNMI CDD State Plan. To make sure the plan reflects real community needs, the Council is gathering input from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, and community partners. Public input will help the Council answer one central question:

"What would help people with developmental disabilities and their families live the life they want to live?"

This feedback will shape the Council's priorities areas.



**EVERY VOICE COUNTS!
SHARE THAT VOICE BY
FILLING OUT OUR
STATE PLAN SURVEY**



Why This Matters

The five-year state plan is not just a requirement — it is a strategic roadmap that ensures people with developmental disabilities in the CNMI can lead self-directed, fulfilling lives. By gathering broad input, the Council ensures that the voices of individuals with disabilities, their families, and the wider community drive local priorities and guide federal investments in

CHALLENGES:



Continue to find funds to start a Lease-to-Own Program for Assistive Technology. This program would help people with disabilities who can't get regular loans or don't have insurance to get the equipment and devices they need.



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CNMI CDD.GOV.MP

