



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

Citizen Centric Report

FISCAL YEAR 2023

OCT 2022 - SEPT 2023



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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 the 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 (YCF) in Guam with a dedicated team of employees committed to better responding to youth who intersect with the juvenile justice system. With the end of the public health emergency declaration at our heels, DYA made the most of community partnerships with the delivery of in-person services at both our community resource centers, prioritizing access to social and mental health safety nets for all young people.

DYA uses a continuous improvement strategy and worked diligently toward the installation and upgrade of CCT surveillance cameras in YCF, registered all law enforcement officers in PoliceOne, an online training portal, allowing for much needed and current training opportunities for shift workers; and continued engagement with the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice on recommendations to enhance policy, practice and service provision.

When Typhoon Mawar devastated the island in May of 2023, DYA leveraged the opportunity to expand the Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program to almost 1800 participants focused on Government of Guam agency recovery efforts. This was by far, the largest youth employment program to date, made possible by a supportive Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and the tenacity and resilience of DYA staff.

We remain committed to creating opportunities and empowering young people so that they can thrive and reach their fullest potential; by investing in our youth we are lifting them up, improving the quality of life on Guam for our families, enhancing public safety and building a brighter future.

OUR EMPLOYEES

Division	2021	2022	2023
Director's Office	3	3	3
Youth Development	17	18	19
Youth Corrections	47	43	39
Vocational Rehabilitation & Support Services	9	10	10



GOALS

- ◇ Improve conditions of confinement for youth residents in secure care
- ◇ Decrease use of detention for technical violations/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 facilities and equipment; identify funding to upgrade facilities
- ◇ Develop and implement effective and efficient youth programs and services
- ◇ Establish partnerships and identify resources that will effectively carry out our mission

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

The Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) houses youth residents charged with delinquent offenses in secure care dormitories while a separate, staff secure dormitory, called Cottage Home (CH) is used for status offenders, remanded to the custody of the Department of Youth Affairs by court order or after an initial charge by the Guam Police Department.

Transitioning YCF and CH from a pandemic environment to a deliberate lifting of restrictions in the facilities was challenging but necessary as physical restrictions tend to be harsher in secure facilities; getting youth residents back to face to face learning and socializing with their peers, opening up family visitations and group therapy and recreational activities was a high priority and both youth corrections staff and case managers carried the heavy lifting to get our facilities back to the new “normal” post-pandemic.

The staff were creative, adding more activities and programs for all residents, with firsthand programming engaging with DYA partners and having our Cottage Home residents participate more in community events, such as the Relay for Life; 2K/5K events for charitable causes; educational field trips to museums, art galleries, cultural centers, just to name a few.

Midyear, Typhoon Mawar proved to be catastrophic to communications and utilities which tested our ability to respond to a natural disaster. Resilience proved second nature after weathering over a year of public health mandates and restrictions and DYA bounced back with a recommitment to enhancing our continuity of operations and safety plans, revealing areas that require attention, from updates to our Standard Operating Procedures to mitigate staffing assignments.

The work of YCF and CH continues with staff commitment to improving conditions of confinement through actual physical plant upgrades to training for all officers on juvenile justice reform, adolescent brain development and responding to youth in developmentally appropriate ways to enhance outcomes and increase overall public safety.



Table 1. DYA Admissions for FY2021 - FY2023

Year	FY2021			FY2022			FY2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total Admission	74	62	12	239	215	24	202	177	25
1 st contact	36	27	9	98	83	15	88	70	18
2 nd or more contacts	38	35	3	141	132	9	114	107	7
Recidivism	65.09%			59%			56.44%		

Table 2. DYA Admissions by Top Offenses for FY2021 - FY2023

Type of Offense	FY2021			FY2022			FY2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Non-Criminal Related									
Beyond Control	28	20	8	54	46	8	61	46	15
Violation of Court Order	16	14	2	66	59	7	70	60	10
Curfew Violation	3	3	0	9	9	0	22	22	0
Criminal Related									
Family Violence	19	17	2	7	4	3	19	17	2
Assault	12	10	2	28	24	4	24	22	2
Burglary	9	9	0	21	21	0	0	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	0



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Following the COVID-19 pandemic interruptions and the return of many social workers who were temporarily detailed to CPS, the Youth Development Division continued its efforts to reinstate the After-school community kids' and Aftercare Program along with various services such as community mentoring, crisis intervention, counselling, and Camps (Christmas, Spring, and Summer breaks) throughout the three Youth Resource Centers.

The Case Management Unit ensured that social workers continue to collaborate with various service providers, such as Mañe'lu, UOG Nutrition Program, Guam National Guard, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC), WestCare Pacific Islands (Sanctuary), and the Judiciary of Guam were said providers brought educational opportunities, vocational training, and therapeutic services for direct service for our DYA residents.

Youth Month 2023 was centered around *"The Power of Resiliency,"* where it encourages the youth to embrace resilience, take initiative in their communities, and inspire others with their ability to adapt and thrive in the face of hardships.

Despite the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar, DYA successfully launched its largest youth development program, the annual Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program, which ran from July 3rd to Aug 4th, hiring over 1,800+ youths to perform entry-level work at various Government of Guam line agencies, the Guam Legislature, the Judiciary of Guam and the Mayors Council of Guam. GSYEP 2023 was strategically aligned to support the island's recovery efforts. The integration of youth into the recovery process not only provided them with practical work experience but also fostered a sense of civic duty and community involvement. Their contributions were instrumental in accelerating Guam's restoration efforts post Typhoon Mawar.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT

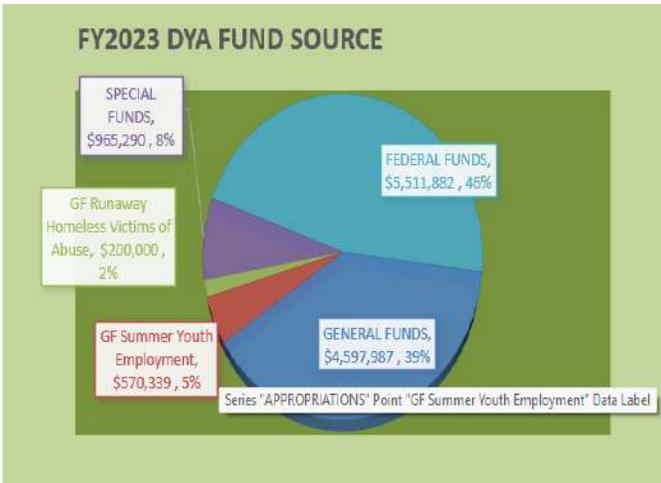
Lagu Youth Resource Center

Kattan Youth Resource Center

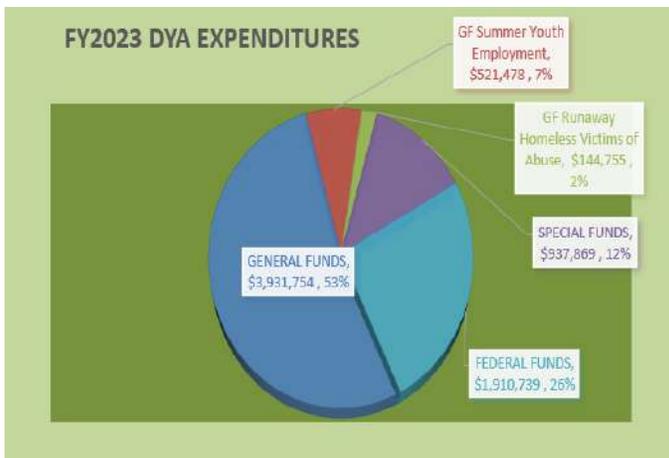
Haya Youth Resource Center

COUNSELING CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT

FINANCES



Bill 276-36 (COR) was passed in August of 2022 and later signed into law by Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero a month later, as Public Law 36-107 (Budget Bill) with appropriations just over \$5.5M for operations, including two additional appropriations; 1) \$200K for youths who are runaways, homeless, or victims of abuse and 2) \$570K for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Aside from overseeing all budgetary and administrative duties, the division of **Vocational Rehabilitation and Support Services (VRSS)** comprises the **Administrative Services Unit (ASU)**, responsible for personnel, procurement and accounting, the **Maintenance / Supply Section**, responsible for building maintenance and supplies for the main facility, and three community resource centers, located in Hagat (Agat), Kattan (Mangilao) and Lagu (Dededo), and the **Culinary Section**, responsible for galley operations that serves meals to our residents.



	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 4,597,987	\$ 3,931,754
GF Summer Youth Employment	\$ 570,339	\$ 521,478
GF Runaway Homeless Victims of Abuse	\$ 200,000	\$ 144,755
SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 965,290	\$ 937,869
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$ 5,511,882	\$ 1,910,739
	\$ 11,845,498	\$ 7,446,595

FTE **FILLED** **VACANT**
76 **58** **24**

Available Local Fund Details	2023	2022	2021
General Funds (GF)	\$4,597,987.00	\$4,633,056.00	\$3,861,012.47
GF Summer Youth Prog	\$570,339.00	\$570,339.00	\$570,339.00
GF Runaway Homeless Prog	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Healthy Future Funds	\$965,290.00	\$930,221.00	\$682,502.00
	\$6,333,616.00	\$6,333,616.00	\$5,313,853.47
Local Expenditure Details	2023	2022	2021
General Funds (GF)	\$3,931,754.34	\$4,224,247.35	\$4,596,935.85
GF Summer Youth Prog	\$521,477.66	\$470,409.20	\$524,143.23
GF Runaway Homeless Prog	\$144,755.00	\$120,898.43	\$166,646.85
Healthy Future Funds	\$937,869.48	\$833,151.92	\$647,653.27
	\$5,535,856.48	\$5,648,706.90	\$4,935,379.20



CHALLENGES

- 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.
- Sustainable funding source for the hugely 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 decrease or even 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.



OUTLOOK

DYA’s outlook is bright but there is still much to be done, particularly with data collection, sharing and analysis. DYA looks forward to honing the full potential of our Case Management System and using data to inform policy and practice.

Our partnership with the RFK Resource Center for Juvenile Justice culminated in recommendations to improve system performance and DYA stands ready to act on areas focused on the physical plant, programming, policies, partnerships, training, health care, education, recreation, behavioral transgressions, access/family engagement and data.

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



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



DYA Citizen Centric Report (CCR) 2023

1 message

Joyce Rosario <joyce.rosario@dya.guam.gov>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 5:20 PM

To: admin@guamopa.com

Cc: Melanie Brennan <melanie.brennan@guam.gov>, "Michael D. Weakley" <michael.weakley@guam.gov>, "Jennifer R. Arceo" <jennifer.arceo@dya.guam.gov>, Joyce Rosario <joyce.rosario@dya.guam.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Please find the attached **Citizen Centric Report** for FY2023 from DYA.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 671-735-5010. Thank you.

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