



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

June 23, 2021

The Honorable Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres
Governor of Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

Warm Hafa Adai and tirow.

First, I congratulate you for keeping the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) community safe from the pandemic amid CNMI's recovery from the impact of recent major typhoons. I also take this opportunity to thank you for allotting time from your busy schedule on March 2nd to have our first virtual meeting during this new administration. The virtual meeting provided us a chance to discuss, among other things, issues related to plans for the next plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas and, briefly, on unemployment insurance for the territories. I am happy to inform you that the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance grant has been awarded.

In addition, since our meeting, the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) grants team received some of the overdue grant reports. I respectfully seek your assistance once more to have the pending overdue reports completed.

Furthermore, after reviewing and scoring grant applications submitted in response to the OIA Fiscal Year 2021 Technical Assistance Program notice, I am pleased to award a total of \$2,790,010 in grant funding to the CNMI for the following projects, as detailed in the proposals submitted on April 1, 2021:

- \$1,171,160 to the *Department of Finance* for the Revenue Management Information Tax System;
- \$363,736 to the *Department of Finance* for a CNMI Wide Valuation Report;
- \$265,500 to the *Commonwealth Utilities Corporation* for an Automated Water Read, Supply and Lead Detection System Pilot Project;
- \$245,000 to the *Commonwealth Utilities Corporation* for a feasibility study for Wastewater Collection, Transmission, and Treatment System Project;
- \$241,431 to the *Office of the Governor* for a CNMI Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Planning Initiative. Please note OIA is not providing funds for a vehicle;
- \$183,876 to the *Office of the Governor* for a Comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan;
- \$169,307 to the *Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan* for the House of Taga Restoration and Preservation Project; and
- \$150,000 to the *Office of the Governor* for the Implementation of Saipan Street Naming and Addressing Master Map.

OIA is also awarding funding to the government of CNMI through the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) for the following projects:

- \$368,500 to the *Commonwealth Utilities Corporation* for the Jet Vac Sewer Cleaning Equipment Acquisition;
- \$150,000 to the *Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan* for the Backhoe Loader Acquisition; and
- \$185,000 to the *Commonwealth Ports Authority* for Maintenance Equipment for the Tinian Airport and Port of Tinian.

Lastly, OIA will also be awarding CARES Act funding to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation for the following projects as detailed in the proposal submitted on April 2, 2021:

- \$1,720,000 for the Pharmacy Improvement Project and Renovation Improvement Project; and
- \$581,749 for the Renovation and Improvements to the Laboratory Project.

The grant award documents will be sent to your staff by our grant managers who will also contact each project manager regarding additional terms and conditions for each grant award. Please contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Merriam Porter (TAP/CARES) via email at Merriam_Porter@ios.doi.gov or Ms. Weihao Feng (MAP) via email at Weihao_Feng@ios.doi.gov should you have any questions or concerns regarding these grants.

Again, thank you for affording my staff and I the opportunity to have our virtual meeting. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your office. The pandemic has had an impact on all of us for far too long. We hope that things will begin to reach some normalcy so that we can meet once more in person.

Until then, please extend our warm greetings to the people of CNMI and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Nikolao Pula
Acting Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan