DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

Citizen Centric Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024

OCT 2023 - SEPT 2024

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 Guam's only Youth Correctional Facility(YCF), These facilities are supported by a dedicated team committed to continuous quality improvement and to strengthening services for youth who intersect with the juvenile justice system.

During the past fiscal year, DYA strengthened community partnerships to bring services directly to youth residents. A key example was the delivery of on-site mental health services through the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center's innovative Juvenile Justice Program. Direct access to mental health services is critical when working with vulnerable and marginalized youth, many of whom have dual-system involvement, histories of trauma, learning disabilities, and behavioral health needs. Through appropriate treatment, support, and connection to resources, DYA seeks to uplift youth residents, foster resilience, expand opportunity, and support positive growth. These efforts contribute to a brighter and safer future for the community, one youth at a time.

OUR EMPLOYEES

Division	2022	2023	2024
Director's Office	3	3	2
Youth Development	18	19	19
Youth Corrections	43	39	43
Vocational Rehabilitation & Support Services	10	10	8



GOALS

- ◊ Eliminate the inappropriate use of secure confinement for juvenile offenders.
- ◊ Improve conditions of confinement/secure care for youths residents.
- ◊ Invest in at-risk youth by improving services, treatment, and increasing opportunities available for those in custody.
- ◊ Prioritize staff development and professional certification.

OBJECTIVES

- ◊ Decrease use of detention for technical violations. Identity deflection and diversion opportunities as well as alternative placement settings for youth inappropriately detained at YCF.
- ◊ Make infrastructure improvements to YCF, upgrade cameras for enhanced supervision, air conditioning upgrades and galley improvements.
- ◊ Expand and enhance the Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program; identify sustainable funding and alternate workforce entry level pathways. Leverage community partnerships to provide meaningful programs, services and engagement with youth.
- ◊ Professionalize staff through available training opportunities.

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YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (YCF) AND COTTAGE HOME FACILITY (CHF)



In 2024, the Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Home continued to recover and demonstrate resilience following the restrictions, limitations, isolation, and disruption caused by Super Typhoon Mawar. The year required a renewed focus on restoring normal operations while also addressing damage to the facility and various community resource centers.

While the team continued addressing the effects of the typhoon, staff also expanded activities and programming for residents. These efforts included increasing hands-on opportunities with stakeholders and encouraging greater participation by Cottage Home residents in community events.



YCF continued to experience personnel changes during the fiscal year. Two employees departed one through retirement and one to pursue other employment-while three new officers were brought onboard. Although this resulted in a net increase of one officer, it provided some needed relief to existing staffing levels.

YCF officers remain dedicated not only to their daily responsibilities, but also to serving the broader community. Staff participated in numerous community events, including Relay for Life, the Special Olympics Torch Run, individual sporting events, Law Enforcement Month celebrations with GPD and DOC, and Jump for Justice with the District Court of Guam.

YCF Staff continue to demonstrate strong commitment to both their profession and the residents in their care. Despite challenges such as aging facilities, vehicles, and equipment, officers consistently report to work and uphold their responsibilities as law enforcement professionals.







PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

DYA is committed to the safety of every youth assigned to our custody and care. The department maintains a zero-tolerance standard for sexual contact, harassment, abuse, assault, and misconduct involving any youth under its supervision. To prevent and address incidents of sexual misconduct, DYA applies appropriate screening, assessment, classification, placement, education, staff training, investigation, administrative discipline, and prosecution procedures. DYA also continues working toward a full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards for juvenile correctional facilities. The following chart depicts the number of complaints filed during this period.

2022	Resident to Resident Sexual Harassment	Resident to Resident Sexual Abuse	Resident to Resident Consensual Act	Staff to Resident Sexual Misconduct	Staff to Resident Sexual Harassment	TOTAL ALLEGATIONS
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending External	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023						
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pending External	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	0	0	0	1
2024						
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending External	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1. DYA Admissions for FY2022 - FY2024

Year	FY2022			FY2023			FY2024		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total Admission	351	315	31	172	153	24	189	160	27
1st contact	98	121	29	82	65	15	66	48	18
2nd or more contacts	141	192	9	90	88	9	123	112	9
Recidivism		57.26%			52.33%			65.08%	

Table 2. DYA Admissions by Top Offenses for FY2022 - FY2024

Type of Offense	FY2022			FY2023			FY2024		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Non-Criminal Related									
Beyond Control	54	46	8	61	46	15	32	20	12
Violation of Court Order	66	59	7	70	60	10	104	94	10
Curfew Violation	9	9	0	22	22	0	6	5	1
Criminal Related									
Family Violence	7	4	3	19	17	2	12	11	1
Assault	28	24	4	24	22	2	13	11	2
Burglary	21	21	0	0	0	0	13	11	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Robbery	8	8	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	11	11	0	0	0	0	4	4	0









COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Lagu Youth Resource Center

Kattan Youth Resource Center

Haya Youth Resource Center

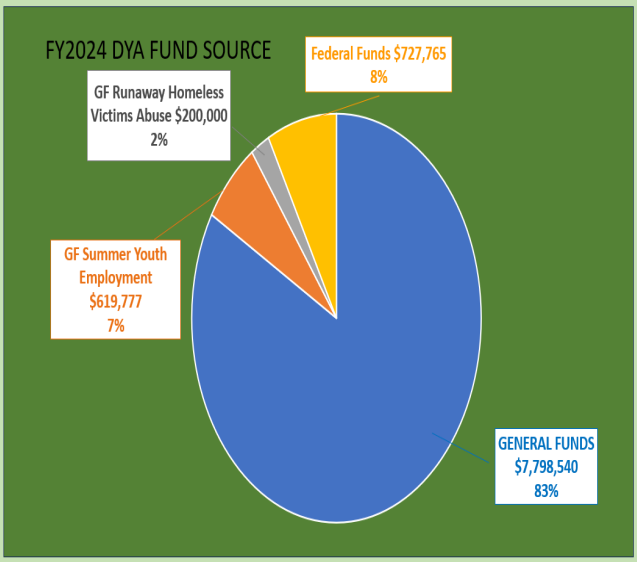
COUNSELING CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT

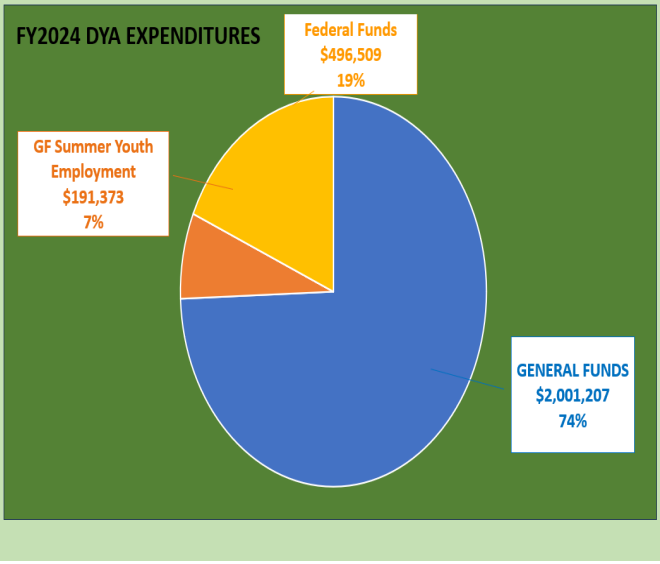
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

During FY 2024, the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) Youth Development Division continued to strengthen its programs and services through strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives aimed at improving outcome for youth. A significant milestone was the implementation of Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) through a partnership with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC). Prior to implementation, regular monthly and quarterly planning meetings were conducted to coordinate program development, establish implementation strategies, and ensure readiness among staff and stakeholders. DYA personnel actively participated in MRT training to build the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively deliver the evidence-based cognitive behavioral intervention. Through MRT, youth residing at the facility are provided opportunities to develop personal responsibility, improve decision-making skills, and build positive behaviors that support successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

Additionally, DYA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Division of Children's Wellness (DCW), which provided funding to support for several key programs, including the Aftercare ad Community Kids Programs at our three resource centers (Haya, Kattan, and Lagu), piloting the Youth Transition Program, and the newly added childcare component of the Guam Summer Youth Employment Program (GSYEP). This partnership enhanced DYA's ability to deliver comprehensive services that support youth development, family engagement, workforce readiness, and community-based programming.

Further advancing the agency's commitment to best practices in youth development, representative from RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice worked closely with DYA leadership and staff to support the implementation of the agency's 24/7 programming model. Prior to the implementation, DYA staff participated in ongoing training, technical assistance sessions, and regular planning meeting to ensure the successful integration of the new programming framework. These efforts equipped staff with the tools and knowledge needed to provide consistent, structured and therapeutic services to youth around the clock. The collaboration contributed to the development of more youth-centered environment that promotes safety, positive growth, engagement, and successful outcomes for youth in DYA's care.





FINANCES

Public Law 37-125 (FY2024 Public Law– This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 236-37 (COR), "An Act making appropriations for the operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the government of Guam for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024, making other appropriations, and establishing miscellaneous and administrative provisions.

FY2024 APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURE BY FUND SOURCE		
	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUNDS	$7,798,540	$2,001,207
GF Summer Youth Employment	$619,777	$191,373
GF Runaway Homeless Victims of Abuse	$200,000	0
Federal Funds	$727,765	$496,509
	$ 9,346,082	$2,689,089

Available Local Fund Details	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**
General Funds (GF)	$6,326,492	$4,597,987	$4,633,056
GF Summer Youth Prog	$428,204	$570,339	$570,339
GF Runaway Homeless Prog	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Healthy Future Funds	0	$965,290	$930,221
	$6,954,896	$6,333,616	$6,333,616
Local Expenditure Details	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**
General Funds (GF)	$2,001,207	$3,931,754.34	$4,224,247.35
GF Summer Youth Prog	$191,373	$521,477.66	$470,409.20
GF Runaway Homeless Prog	0	$144,755	$120,898.43
Healthy Future Funds	0	$937,869.48	$833,151.92
	$2,192,580	$5,535,856.48	$5,648,706.90





CHALLENGES

◊ A sustainable local funding is needed to support the Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

◊ Recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers remains an ongoing challenge for multiple law enforcement agencies on Guam. Limited staffing affects supervision ratios and staff morale, while personnel shortages contributed to increased overtime and burnout.

◊ The antiquated Youth Correctional Facility remains a concern. As DYA continues working to reduce reliance on detention and improve youth outcomes, it must also pursue a secure care facility that provides the therapeutic and safe environment required for a juvenile residential setting.

◊ Continued personnel training and 24/7 evidence-based programming are needed to strengthen services and support positive outcomes for youth residents.





OUTLOOK

DYA recognizes that important work remains and looks forward to fully using the newly acquired Case Management System, related training , and real-time data reports. Digital recordkeeping and data analysis will better position us to update policies and practices using evidence-based information.

In addition, the comprehensive review conducted by our technical assistance partners at the RFK Resource Center for Juvenile Justice will result in a final report with recommendations to improve system performance and strengthen conditions of confinement through appropriate programming and supervision.

We remain committed to collaborative leadership and strong partnerships as we work toward our vision and reaffirm our commitment to the youth we serve.







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