



Strengthening Communities
Improving Lives

2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Office of Community Services

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Executive Director's Message

I am very pleased to submit this report, and wish to acknowledge our State and community partners, and the dedicated and hard-working staff at OCS for making 2012 a very productive year.

2012 was indeed a busy year for all of us at OCS. We began our strategic planning process in early April by holding a series of needs assessment meetings with community stakeholders and service providers in all four counties. We also convened a meeting at the State Capitol for a larger group of non-profit organizations and State government agencies. By talking with representatives of client communities, government and non-governmental service agencies, and listening to their concerns, we established our budget priorities, redesigned our current programs for greater impact, collaboration, and integration of services. We also committed considerable staff time to writing a New Day Plan based on the needs assessment findings, including a review of the large body of literature on the poor and the Micronesian, Filipino, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian populations.

In 2012 and continuing forward, our goal at OCS is to revitalize program and fiscal management, improve contract performance, and set higher standards of accountability among service providers. We have experienced moderate success in achieving this goal, but endeavor to do better as performance management, administrative, program and fiscal management processes are fully implemented.

Our efforts parallel a new national undertaking by our largest source of Federal funding – the Community Service Block Grants (CSBG), which is to set core Federal standards and institute competition when agencies do not meet those standards. OCS is preparing to play a strong and active leadership role in the administration, monitoring, assessment and performance management of CSBG eligible entities in the State of Hawaii.

We are most excited about our cluster of proposed “New Day” programs that will greatly help our immigrant communities and other persons in need. These programs include Community Resource Centers that will provide information and assistance, including referral to social services and other resources. The Centers will also provide acculturation training to help people better understand their rights and responsibilities as users of healthcare services, as parents of children in public schools, as consumers, as tenants in public and private housing, as employees, as potential recipients of public services, and as participants in the neighborhoods where they live. We are planning on a program of legal services for immigrants and Micronesian migrants who are in the “gap group” that don't qualify for other legal aid programs.

In addition, we are launching financial literacy programs that will help people better manage their finances, avoid predatory lending and other consumer-fraud problems, help them build assets, and take advantage of federal earned income tax credits. Right now, low-income people in Hawaii are still failing to collect \$30 million in those credits each year – money that Hawaii really needs and which would go directly to the people who need those funds the most.

We issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for all of those New Day programs in November and December. We'll be receiving proposals starting in late January 2013 and evaluating them in the months ahead. At the same time, we'll be watching the appropriation process for those programs in the

Legislature. If all goes well, we will be issuing contracts in May and June, and these new programs will get started in July.

On the state level, we are proud that the Legislature continues to rely on our experience and capability in program administration for the State Legislature's appropriations of funds to non-profit organizations throughout the state for Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) and Grants-in-Aid (GIAs). OCS is not the only State executive agency that administers CIPs or GIAs, but we have a large share.

OCS receives funding from a number of federal grants. For the first time we will be working with the Department of Justice to provide high-quality comprehensive services for human trafficking victims with the recent award of \$400,000 for the period of two years. We continue with our many federal programs that assist refugees, persons in need of food assistance, weatherization assistance to reduce home-energy costs.

As we look forward to 2013 and beyond, we are very proud that we have substantially rebuilt OCS, and we are eager to work on the even greater challenges that lie ahead of us.

Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts and ideas. One of our key jobs is to abolish "silo"-thinking in social services. That's what happens when people develop ideas in isolation from one another. Greater communication helps us all, and we're here for that, too.

Mila Kaahanui

OUR PARTNERS

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE

EASTER SEALS HAWAII

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF HAWAII, INC.

HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

HAWAII FOODBANK, INC.

HALE KIPA, INC.

HONOLULU COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

KAISER PERMANENTE

KAUAI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

MAUI FAMILY YMCA

MAUI FOOD BANK, INC.

PACIFIC EXPRESS, INC.

PAPAKOLEA DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

THE FOOD BASKET, INC.

VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES HAWAII

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONOLULU

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF KAUAI

OUR STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, AND

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES

THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Who We Are

The State Office of Community Services (OCS), administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, is mandated to provide human service programs for Hawaii's economically disadvantaged, immigrants and refugees. OCS was created by the Hawaii State Legislature through Act 305, and signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 1985. The legislation creating OCS is codified as Chapter 371K, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

OCS was founded, initially, to consolidate four existing offices and programs:

- (1) The Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity established by the Governor's Office in the mid '60s to manage Federal funds;
- (2) The Progressive Neighborhood Program established in the early 1970s to operate demonstration projects for the economically disadvantaged;
- (3) The Refugee Resettlement Program which provided services to the refugees as part of the State Program Development Services Section, Public Welfare Division of the Department of Social Services and Housing; and
- (4) The State Immigration Services Center which provided planning, coordination, and funding for immigrant services.

Our Vision is a Hawaii in which disadvantaged persons have ready access to governmental and other social services and the ability to benefit from such services in a manner that will allow them to effectively emerge from their conditions of disadvantage and participate fully and happily as productive members of their respective communities.

Our Mission is to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty for economically disadvantaged persons, immigrants, and refugees in the State of Hawaii, by facilitating and enhancing the development, delivery, and coordination of effective programs for economically disadvantaged persons, immigrants and refugees that allow these communities to achieve and maintain greater economic self-sufficiency and integration into Hawaii society; to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of executive branch operations on behalf of those in need; and to improve the responsiveness to the needs of our target population through partnerships in the private and public sectors.

What We Do

The Broad Statutory Responsibilities

The Office of Community Services – OCS – facilitates and enhances the development, delivery, and coordination of effective programs for those in need and to provide advice and assistance to the agencies of the executive branch, other private agencies in the human services field, and the legislature. In implementing this broad mandate of State law,

- (1) OCS serves as the lead advocate in state government for the disadvantaged, with the responsibility for the coordination of programs for disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants;
- (2) OCS assesses the policies and practices of public and private agencies impacting on the disadvantaged and conduct advocacy efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants;
- (3) OCS devises and recommends legislative and administrative actions for the improvement of services for the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants;
- (4) OCS applies for, receives, and disburses grants and donations from all sources for programs and services to assist the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants, and it administers funds allocated to the office of community services by federal and state government entities;
- (5) OCS establishes statewide goals and objectives relating to disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants;
- (6) OCS studies the needs of disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants in the State;
- (7) OCS reviews current legislation pertaining to programs for services to the disadvantaged and recommend revisions;
- (8) OCS evaluates the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of all services for the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants within the State;
- (9) OCS assists and coordinates the efforts of public and private agencies providing services which affect the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants; and
- (10) OCS maintains contacts with local, state, and federal officials and public and private agencies concerned with planning for the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants.

Applying the Statutory Responsibilities to Planning, Programs, and Services

We at OCS administer our programs through contracts with local non-profit agencies. Our role is to secure funding, develop programs on the basis of intensive needs assessments in which we do our best to listen to our communities express their needs and design programs that match up those needs with services to address them. We then issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to ask service-providers to tell us what they will do if they receive contracts to provide services under these proposals.

Our RFPs are prepared by the well-established procurement procedures pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes 103F and procurement regulations issued by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).

When proposals are accepted and funding has come through, OCS negotiates a contract with the service provider to administer the program pursuant to the proposal.

When programs are successful and cost-effective, we refine them and seek new funding to renew the programs in future years. We continually re-evaluate our programs and consult with both service providers and our client communities.

What We Accomplished in FY 2012

Together with our partners, OCS provided:

FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS (18 Contracts)

Community Services Block Grant: 15,503 low-income persons served statewide.

Employment and Support Services for Refugees: 55 refugees served, including asylees and human trafficking victims, 35 provided employment preparation services, 33 provided English language instruction, 11 placed in unsubsidized full-time employment, and 7 maintained employment for one year.

Emergency Food Assistance: Ordered \$922,223 in commodities for the State of Hawaii and distributed over 1,000,000 pounds of food. A recent change in administrative structure has saved the program \$75,000 in administrative costs this year.

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition: Purchased \$432,913.00 of locally grown produce on Oahu and Big Island from 47 growers and enhanced the nutrition of 6,218 seniors.

Weatherization Assistance: Provided home energy audits, in-home education and installation of solar water heaters installed in 21 homes, resulting in an average 22% reduction of the electricity bill. Other homes were provided with energy efficient refrigerators, Compact Fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs, and all sink aerators.

Legal Advocacy for Children and their Families: 359 families at 100% poverty guideline served, 399 families at 200% poverty guideline served.

STATE FUNDED PROGRAMS, GRANT-IN-AID AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (13 Contracts)

Employment Core Services for Low-Income Persons: 382 participants enrolled, 148 gained employment, 58 maintained employment for one year. These results reflect outcomes for the first seven months of a 19-months contract.

Employment Core Services for Immigrants: 245 immigrants enrolled, 107 gained employment, 11 maintained employment for one year. These results reflect outcomes for the first twelve months of a biennium year contract.

Maui Family YMCA is renovating and expanding its facilities. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) will increase the current facility from 17,284 square feet to approximately 36,415 square feet. On an average day, 400 Maui residents pass through the Kahului facility doors to enjoy the Y experience. The CIP Grant from the state is \$750,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$6,000,000.00.

Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) awarded state funds to complete the construction for a building to house and provide maintenance facilities for the Maui Economic Opportunity Bus System. In 2009, over 264,000 trips were provided to Maui residents-elderly, low-income, persons with disabilities, residents with medical transportation needs, preschoolers and youth. The CIP Grant from the state is \$4,000,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$11,900,000.00.

Kauai YMCA is improving the Olympic Swimming Pool Complex with a 300 Panel Solar Electric Energy System to help control long term utility costs, while creating twenty five new jobs. A 300 Panel Solar Electric Energy System will generate an estimated \$2,700.00 in monthly electrical savings. The CIP Grant from the state is \$200,000.00.

Hale Kipa, Inc is completing the construction of the Hale Kipa Services Center, Residential Shelters & Educational Facility Complex on Old Ft. Weaver Road in Ewa. Hale Kipa annually services about 3,500 at-risk youth whose lives have reached the point of dysfunction. The CIP Grant from the state is \$500,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$20,000,000.00.

Easter Seals Hawaii, Maui. In 2003, the State of Hawaii Department of Health asked ESH to take over the management of the State's Medicaid Waiver Adult Day Health program on Maui. ESH has acquired a 1.7 acre parcel of land in Kahului, adjacent to Queen Kaahumanu Center and is presently developing a new campus that will accommodate the Medicaid Waiver and Community Support Services programs currently located at the Cameron Center. There are more than 200 adults on Maui who qualify for Medicaid Waiver services, and more than 1,500 special education students in the Maui Department of Education schools. The CIP Grant from the state is \$950,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$6,000,000.00.

Papakolea Development Center Capital Improvement Project (CIP) will take place at the Papakolea Community Park and Community Center located at Tantalus Drive in Honolulu. This project will directly affect the community of 1,575 and the residents of urban Honolulu. The CIP funds are focused on reducing energy costs and include installation of alternative energy equipment, photovoltaic panels and LEB lighting enhancements to the entire facility and park grounds. The CIP Grant is \$250,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$548,000.00.

St. Francis Healthcare Foundation of Hawaii St. Francis is presently constructing a 15,000-square-foot single level intergenerational day care facility on 1.25 acres of private property, across the street from its Franciscan Vistas Ewa senior living community. The Intergenerational Center will be licensed for 42 participants per day and can serve up to 54 participants a year. In addition, the facility will be able to serve up to 92 children ages 2 ³/₄ - 6 years on a daily basis. The CIP Grant from the state is \$1,000,000.00. The estimated total cost of the project is \$8,000,000.00.

Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc. began as a local community action program under the support of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act of 1965. The agency is the only human service organization on Kauai whose purpose is to provide wide range of services and activities that alleviate the conditions of poverty and allow low-income families and individuals to attain social and economic self-sufficiency. The purpose of the grant is to fix the leak and replacement of the roof. The main goal of this request is to provide a safe and clean environment for 36 children at KEO Early Learning Center. The CIP Grant is \$80,000.00.

YMCA of Honolulu The Weed and Seed program was originally established by the Federal government to strengthen local communities by "weeding" out criminal activity and "seeding" the community with crime-prevention and neighborhood-restoration actions through and technical assistance for persons who would lead the program in their local communities. Currently, OCS is overseeing Weed & Seed local programs in various areas throughout Honolulu, through a \$75,000 contract with YMCA of Honolulu.

FEDERAL FUNDED PROGRAMS

Community Services Block Grant Program

By far, the single largest grant program that OCS administers is Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). It is a comprehensive Federal program that allows local community action agencies (CAAs) to identify the most important needs of their low-income communities and devise specific programs to alleviate the causes and effects of poverty. Each CAA prepares a community needs assessment on the basis of careful analysis of its community, receiving input from the people who will be benefited by the programs. Each CAA is a non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors that has representatives of government, low-income persons, and private sector businesses.

Each county in Hawaii has a CAA, and each CAA has set up its own varied programs under CSBG. The challenges that these programs address include, but are not limited to, child health services; local transportation; youth services addressing in particular tobacco use, underage drinking, and career planning; services for the elderly; microenterprise development; various worker training programs; and programs that assist low-income people in finding housing, employment, and other services.

The Federal CSBG Act requires the State agencies that oversee CSBG grants, such as OCS in Hawaii, to develop an annual State CSBG Plan in conjunction with the CAAs, to oversee and monitor the work of the CAAs at all stages of the annual CSBG grants, and to report on the program's performance to Federal and State authorities.

The Community Action Agencies perform services under many other grants besides CSBG, such as Head Start programs, that are not overseen by OCS. Conversely, OCS works with the CAAs in other areas besides CSBG, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program and other services.

OCS requires the Community Action Agencies to submit timely, relevant, and complete quarterly CSBG reports. Each CSBG Report is a data management tool for these agencies, and it provides information to support its efforts to identify technical assistance needs, agencies that may require additional support and strength in the network. In addition, the CSBG Report provides critical insight into efficiency and performance across the network thereby supporting the mission of accountability that each agency is required to maintain.

Weatherization Assistance Program

OCS has been administering the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) for at least three decades. WAP was originally created to assist people living in cold climates on the mainland to weatherize their homes to prevent heat loss, and thus reduce their home-heating costs. Here in Hawaii, we don't have the need to heat our homes, but we most definitely need to reduce our home-energy costs. Hawaii's electricity rates are by far the highest in the nation.

WAP helps Hawaii residents reduce those home-energy costs by making their homes more energy efficient. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual energy bills reduced by a national

annual average of \$440. In Hawaii, the savings are even greater and are estimated to average \$1,000 per household per year.

In Hawaii, OCS has worked with the four CAAs over approximately 30 years to install solar hot water heaters, energy efficient refrigerators to replace old ones, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to replace incandescent, low-flow shower heads, water heater timers, and in certain instances room air conditioners. The CAAs engage in ongoing outreach to the target populations of low-income persons, particularly seniors and the disabled, who are then screened for qualification. The CAA energy specialists then make audits of the energy consumption of qualifying households and determine a savings-to-investment ratio (SIR), so that priority is put on installations that will be the most cost-effective. These CAA personnel also check the housing units for safety issues. The CAA personnel will typically install CFLs and low-flow shower heads when they make preliminary inspections. Then, they have local private companies make the major installations in the houses that require them.

The CAAs endeavor to ensure that the old, replaced appliances are sent to appropriate recycling facilities, rather than adding to landfills – and also to ensure that people don't just keep them or give them to friends or relatives.

The CAA personnel who work on these projects receive certification as Energy Educators after receiving specialized training. The CAAs work with local companies to obtain quantity discounts, and they work with their local electric utilities to monitor the post-installation energy usage of the homes that have been serviced and compare that usage to prior usage. Many homes will receive only CFLs and shower heads, others will receive refrigerators as well, and a relative few will receive all the appliances described above. Such a comprehensive installation costs around \$5,000 per house, including administrative overhead.

For the current Federal Fiscal Year, the grant to Hawaii is about \$200,000, of which 10% will be used for OCS administrative costs, and the 90% remainder will be apportioned among the awardees pursuant to a competitive process. Hawaii had also received a substantial influx of approximately \$4.1 million in Federal funds for WAP under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – the stimulus act of 2009. However, these WAP-ARRA funds must be liquidated by December 31, 2012, and it appears unlikely that a similar extra influx will be made anytime soon.

Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a Federal program helping to supplement the diets of needy individuals or households by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance in the most cost-effective and comprehensive manner practicable without cost to the recipients. Grants are based on formulas that compare a State's poverty-level population, and its population of unemployed people, against the national averages.

Using funds from annual Federal grants, OCS orders USDA surplus commodities, primarily canned goods, rice, and frozen foods, on behalf of the four Primary Eligible Recipient Agencies (ERAs) – one in each county, which act as the lead distribution agencies for their respective counties. OCS handles the purchasing and shipment of the commodities from the U.S. Mainland to Honolulu and to the Neighbor Islands, where they are turned over to the Primary ERAs. The Primary ERAs in turn distribute these products to local Supporting ERAs, which make the distributions to eligible persons and households.

Previously, OCS had operated with two primary ERAs in each county. This situation was inefficient and expensive. Accordingly, in mid-2011, OCS started approximately \$80,000 in annual savings by reducing our Primary ERAs to one per county. The other, former co-Primary ERAs are free to continue as supporting TEFAP distributors for the people whom they have been serving in the past.

The Federal food grant for TEFAP in Hawaii for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 totaled nearly \$740,000. OCS also received about \$150,000 out of an administrative fund for OCS costs, and shipping of these commodities from the U.S. Mainland to Honolulu and the Neighbor Islands. In the current Federal Fiscal Year 2013, October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, funding continues at the same level under a continuing resolution of the US Congress.

For an individual or household to be eligible to receive TEFAP commodities in Hawai`i, they must have a total gross income no greater than 175 percent of the amount specified in the Federal Poverty Eligibility Guidelines. The Federal Poverty Eligibility Guidelines are updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Applicants must document their eligibility by signing a certification of self-declaration of income.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The FNS awards grants to Hawaii and other States under the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) to provide low-income seniors with vouchers to exchange for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs that have been certified as eligible by OCS. State agencies, such as OCS in Hawaii, prepare annual State Plans for the SFMNP in their respective States. The program was begun in 2000 on the basis of awarding grants to States on a competitive basis, but since 2007 the grants are based on formulas that reflect the low-income senior population of each State.

SFMNP provides fresh, nutritious, unprepared locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs to low-income seniors who are at least 60 years old and who have household incomes of not more than 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines.

For Federal Fiscal Year 2012, OCS received approximately \$543,000 for SFMNP benefits, of which 10% was used by OCS for administrative costs. OCS currently works through two local distribution agencies – The Food Basket on the Big Island and Hawaii Foodbank on Oahu.

On the Big Island, the Food Basket purchases fresh produce in bulk quantities from the eligible growers and distributes the produce to seniors who are enrolled in the program. The Food Basket is also targeting areas of high unemployment, and it delivers SFMNP produce and other foods to homebound, low-income seniors.

On Oahu, Hawaii Foodbank issues vouchers (coupons) to enrolled seniors to obtain eligible foods without charge from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSAs that have been approved by OCS to accept SFMNP vouchers. These produce growers then submit the redeemed SFMNP vouchers to Hawaii Foodbank, which then makes cash requests to OCS for payments. After OCS sends the payments to the distribution agencies, the agencies then pay out reimbursements to the growers.

The State Office of Aging has helped recruit nearly 100 volunteers, many of whom are seniors, to help distribute produce at 20 sites on Oahu.

OCS is working to expand the number and variety of growers who are certified to supply produce. For example, OCS is aware that Windward farms produce corn and myriad greens and fruits, while Leeward farms produce watermelons and squash in greater quantities. By assuring growers a larger market for fresh produce, the program helps growers become more efficient and supports long-term goals for improving the sustainability of Hawaii. OCS is also working to expand the program to Kauai and to return it to Maui within the current State-wide funding limitation.

The Federal SFMNP benefit level is a minimum of \$20 and a maximum of \$50 per year, but the Big Island has a higher maximum of \$149 per year for CSAs. Nutrition education is provided to SFMNP recipients by OCS through the distribution agencies to encourage SFMNP recipients to improve and expand their diets by adding fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as educate them on how to select, store and prepare the fresh fruits and vegetables that they obtain free of charge with their SFMNP coupons. OCS has developed a relationship with Kaiser Permanente and the University of Hawaii to prepare accurate and relevant educational materials.

Refugee Social Services and Cash & Medical Assistance

OCS operates two programs for refugees and victims of human trafficking: (1) the Refugee Social Services Program (RSS), under which Hawaii is receiving \$75,000 and (2) the Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance Program (CMA), under which we receiving \$15,000.

These programs provide medical and financial assistance, and employment and support services for refugees and human trafficking victims. OCS administers these programs under the supervision of the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the Administration for Children and Families in the US Department of Health and Human Services.

OCS contracts annually with one organization to provide services under the Refugee Social Services Program. For FY 2012, it is Child and Family Services (CFS). OCS operates the CMA program under a memorandum of agreement with the Hawaii State Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS makes determinations that individual refugees and trafficking victims are eligible for benefits and disburses financial assistance to them.

Under the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), ORR evaluates whether individual adults may be certified as being victims of severe forms of trafficking. Those persons who are so certified are eligible for benefits and services under RSS and CMA to the same extent as refugees.

Children victims of trafficking (under the age of 18) do not need to be certified in order to receive services and benefits. ORR will issue a letter stating that a child is a victim of a severe form of trafficking and is therefore eligible for benefits.

Additionally, OCS is an active member of the Hawaii Coalition Against Human Trafficking. This group seeks to coordinate efforts between law enforcement and social service agencies to outreach to and address the need of the victims and survivors of human trafficking in a timely and effective manner.

Legal Advocacy for Children and their Families

This program is funded by the Federal Government through grants under Title XX of the Social Security Act. It benefits children who live in households whose income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline for Hawaii. OCS administers this program pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS administers a very similar program, Kids 100, for children who live in households whose income is at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline for Hawaii.

This program, and its twin program, are designed to assist children who are: in violent households, dealing with teen pregnancy including paternity issues, denied access to educational opportunities, victims of confirmed abuse and neglect, needing guardianship or formal adoption, children of parents going through a divorce or otherwise involved in custody and/or visitation issues, needing child support, and/or needing access to social safety-net services. The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii was awarded contracts for both programs. The current funding is \$150,000 per year for Kids 200 and \$132,000 for Kids 100.

STATE FUNDED PROGRAMS

Employment Core Programs

The primary purpose of these programs is to assist a person to find and keep a job. Oftentimes services will help a client identify his/her skills, help the client prepare a resume, search for work, prepare for the employment interview, follow up with the prospective employer, get a job and maintain it.

These “Employment Core Services” programs address the needs of low-income persons, including immigrants and refugees, who have had difficulty finding or maintaining employment.

The Employment Core Services for Low-Income Persons (ECS-LIP) provides training in certain work skills, and assistance to the trainees in finding employment and staying employed.

Currently, the ECS-LIP program is being delivered through three contracts, totaling approximately \$1.8 million for the period from December 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. These contracts are being performed by:

- Parents and Children Together (PACT) – West Hawaii
- Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) – Maui
- Goodwill Industries of Hawaii – Statewide programs

The Employment Core Services for Immigrants (ECS-IMM) includes persons from the “COFA Nations” – people from the small Pacific Island countries that have “Compacts of Free Association” – hence, COFA, with the United States. Those countries are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Like the ECS-LIP program, the ECS-IMM program covers training in work skills and assistance in finding employment and staying employed. However, the ECS-IMM program also incorporates language and acculturation modules.

OCS currently administers a \$1 million State-funded contract with Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. for ECS-IMM for the biennium July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

Capital Improvement Projects

The Hawaii State Legislature regularly appropriates several million dollars each year for Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) for non-profit organizations. OCS is one of a handful of State government agencies that are designated by the Legislature to administer the grants – to ensure that the grantees are capable of handling the grant responsibly and ensuring that State funds are spent properly.

These projects are usually for the construction or renovation of buildings used by these non-profits in providing community services throughout the State. Typically, the Legislature appropriates only a small portion of the total cost of a project. The grantee agency is responsible for raising matching funds. The State will not actually release the State-granted funds until the grantee demonstrates that substantially all funds needed to complete the project have actually been secured. At that time, OCS, with approvals from our Department, the Department of Accounting and General Services, and the Attorney General, will enter into a contract with the grantee for administration of the underlying construction or renovation contract. OCS then periodically makes payments for the expenditures as the work progresses.

Currently, OCS is administering grants from the 2011 session of the Legislature. The State grants total \$12,460,000 toward construction and renovation projects having a total value of \$85,341,223.

LOOKING TOWARD 2013

OCS has recognized that now is the time to launch new services, in line with Governor Abercrombie's long-term "New Day Initiative" to build the human capital that is a key asset of this State.

While maintaining our current programs, our "New Day Initiative" expands services into areas such as Community Resource Centers to help people in our communities, particularly but not exclusively new immigrants, "navigate the system" of resources and services available to them to help them become more economically self-sustaining members of Hawaii's society. This initiative will also include acculturation, legal services for new immigrants, and financial literacy programs. We are also adding a dedicated program for human trafficking victims. Our goal is to facilitate better coordination and collaboration among all OCS programs in order to provide wrap around services and to address the needs of our target population holistically.

For a greater overview of the plans for 2013 we are attaching our *New Day Plan for Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities*.