

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-41

RE: C.R. NO. 16-43/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING SUBSTANCE ABUSE STRATIGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK
GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES.

OCTOBER 02, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs ("H&SA"), to which was
referred C.R. No. 16-43 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO INDICATE APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT
FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ADMINISTRATION, TITLED:
FSM SAMH STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK - STATE INCENTIVE GRANT:
SPF-SIG MICRONESIA, WHICH GRANT, IF AWARDED, WILL PROVIDE \$1.3
MILLION EACH YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS."

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.
The President's request for approval of this grant was submitted to
the Congress on June 10, 2009 via Presidential Communication No. 16-
23.

Your Committee held hearings on the Resolution on September 28 and
October 1, 2009. Present at the hearings from the Department of
Health and Social Affairs were the Secretary, Vita Skilling, the
Assistant Secretary, Marcus Samo, from the Tobacco Use Prevention &
Control Program within the Department of Health and Social Affairs,
Shre Arik and from the Prevention & Treatment of Substance Abuse unit
within the Department, Kerio Walliby and Joshua Phillip. Also present
was the Technical Advisor-Program Developer for Public Health at COM-
FSM, Dr. G. Cuboni and from SBOC, MaryAnn Eperiam, Assistant Director
for Overseas Development Assistance and Mary Lou Hawley, Health
Specialist. Representing the President's Office was Pelsesar Petrus
and from the Department of Justice, Steve George.

The witnesses were well prepared to present information regarding the
grant and were able to address most questions and concerns of the
Committee members. In summary, testimony of the witnesses stated that
the grant is for grass-roots level substance abuse prevention
programs, focusing predominately on alcohol and tobacco and to a
lesser extent beetle nut use and abuse.

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The focus of the programs will be on prevention of substance abuse through education to allow individuals to make healthy choices. The cost of prevention programs is believed to be much less than the cost of treatment programs for the health and social issues that result from substance abuse.

A 2006 grant that collected data and reported on substance abuse in the FSM found that four of the five top causes of mortality in the FSM were tobacco related. Forty-five percent of all suicides were occasioned by alcohol use. In 2005, alcohol related offenses accounted for at least 50% of law enforcement contacts in every FSM state: (Yap 78%, Chuuk 88%, Pohnpei 68%, Kosrae 50%). In 2007, forty-six percent of youths age 13-15 reported current tobacco use.

These statistics provide convincing evidence of the need for a substance abuse prevention framework. This grant seeks to create such a framework.

The grant is for five years, with performance reviewed each year, prior to subsequent years' awards. While the matter was pending with your Committee, the first year award was approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in the amount of \$1,276,606.

The grant will provide a pool of approximately \$400,000, which will be sub-granted at the local level, for grass-roots substance abuse education programs. The programs will ultimately be delivered by NGOs such as youth groups, church-sponsored organizations, or community groups. Before these NGOs can apply for sub-grant funding, they will be required to complete six-steps to qualify. Part of the six-steps includes a requirement that leaders of the group will complete training, provided by COM and/or PIMA. This training will focus on how to educate on substance abuse prevention, utilizing models that have proven successful in other Pacific Island nations (customized to the FSM setting).

The field offices in the States will take applications for sub-grants. Awards will be decided by a committee, most like to be comprised of State of National representatives. Some of these details are yet to be worked out.

Of the total grant 15% will be used for administration at the National level. This administration includes insuring that each group receiving a sub-grant award satisfies the six-steps. New positions to be filled at the National level will be advertised and open to

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applicants from any of the states.

The balance of the grant (excluding the sub-grant pool of \$400,000 and the 15% admin cost) will be used at the State level for coordinators, community liaison officers and assistants, travel and supplies, small stipends for volunteers and for the cost of the training to be provided by COM and the PIMA Prevention Partnership.

The States' portions of the grant have been divided based roughly on populations, but the Department will attempt to include all islands and areas, not to only focus on the most heavily populated areas. Travel funds have been included in the budgets to address the need for transport to training locations or transport of trainers to remote locations.

The programs will focus on prevention through education and many sub-grants will likely focus on the youth of the FSM. The nation overall will benefit from reduced substance abuse if the programs are successful.

Your Committee recommends the following amendments to the Resolution:

AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOLUTION

1. Page 1, Title line 2, delete "indicate approval of the application for a" and insert "approve a five-year" in lieu thereof.
2. Page 1, Title line 6, delete "grant, if awarded,".
3. Page 1, Title line 6, delete "\$1.3 million each year for five years" and insert "\$1,276,606 for the first year, and similar amounts for years two through five" in lieu thereof.

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CONCLUSION

Based on its consideration of the merits of the grant, your Committee on H&SA is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 16-43, as amended, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 16-43, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Setiro Paul, chairman

/s/
Fredrico O. Primo, vice chairman

/s/
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/
Joe N. Suka, member

/s/
Tony H. Otto, member

/s/
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/
Claude H. Phillip, member