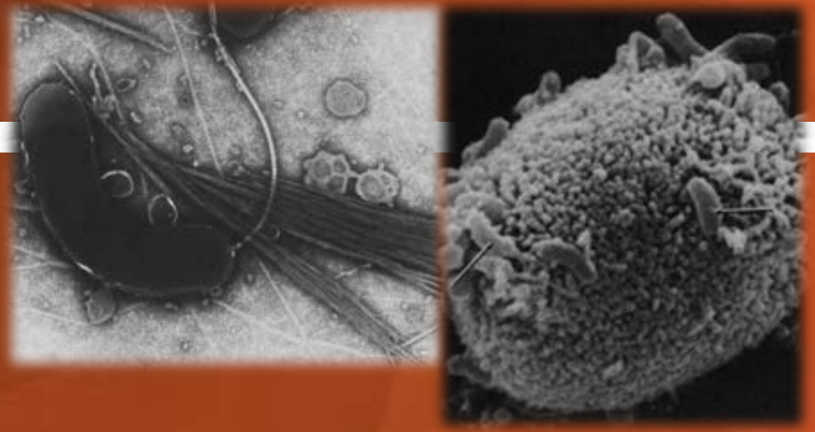
ASTHO Updates

74th PIHOA Executive Board Meeting

Mar 25-28, 2024

Agenda

- ASTHO overview
- Updates:
  - Policy
  - Health Equity
  - PHIG
- Discussion



Cholera
(vibrio cholerae)



President Roosevelt signs the
Social Security Act of 1935

Association of State & Territorial Health Officials

Incorporated March 23, 1942

Our Vision

State and territorial health agencies advancing health equity and optimal health for all.

Our Mission

To support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH

New Chief Executive Officer



- Board-certified emergency physician
- Former Louisiana State Health Officer
- Former Municipal Health Director
- Extensive experience in public health leadership and policy

"I am honored by this opportunity to serve as CEO and look forward to supporting state and territorial health agencies in their collective mission to advance public health and promote optimal health for all."

astho™

Better-Serving our Island Members

- Island Support Unit
- Committee on Insular Affairs
- Island Areas Workgroup
- Board leadership
- Strengthened PIHOA partnership



#OceansUnited!

Island Support



Karl Ensign
Vice President
Island Support



Alex Wheatley
Director



Dulce Mendoza
Analyst



Neyling Fajardo
Director



Julia Von Alexander
Senior Analyst

Support for USAPI Policy Priorities

Insular Affairs Committee

- The Insular Affairs Committee to the ASTHO Board of Directors was formed in 2018 to identify and address the unique policy needs and priorities of the Pacific and Atlantic jurisdictions



- Focus: legislative policy change

- Responsible for 2 Tier 1 legislative priorities:
  - Medicaid parity for territories
  - Meaningful COFA renegotiation COFA for FAS
    - Improve support to special populations, particularly veterans













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SPRING LEADERSHIP FORUM

Spring Leadership Forum

- February 2024 in Washington, DC
- 4 agendas: Board, DELPH, ALI, Islands
- 20 in-person island health leaders and PIHOA representatives!!
- Island meetings: Congressional Committees, Federal Agencies, Academia
  - Achieving Medicaid parity for the territories
  - Renegotiating the Compacts of Free Association
  - Workforce, data, funding



Policy Updates: Medicaid

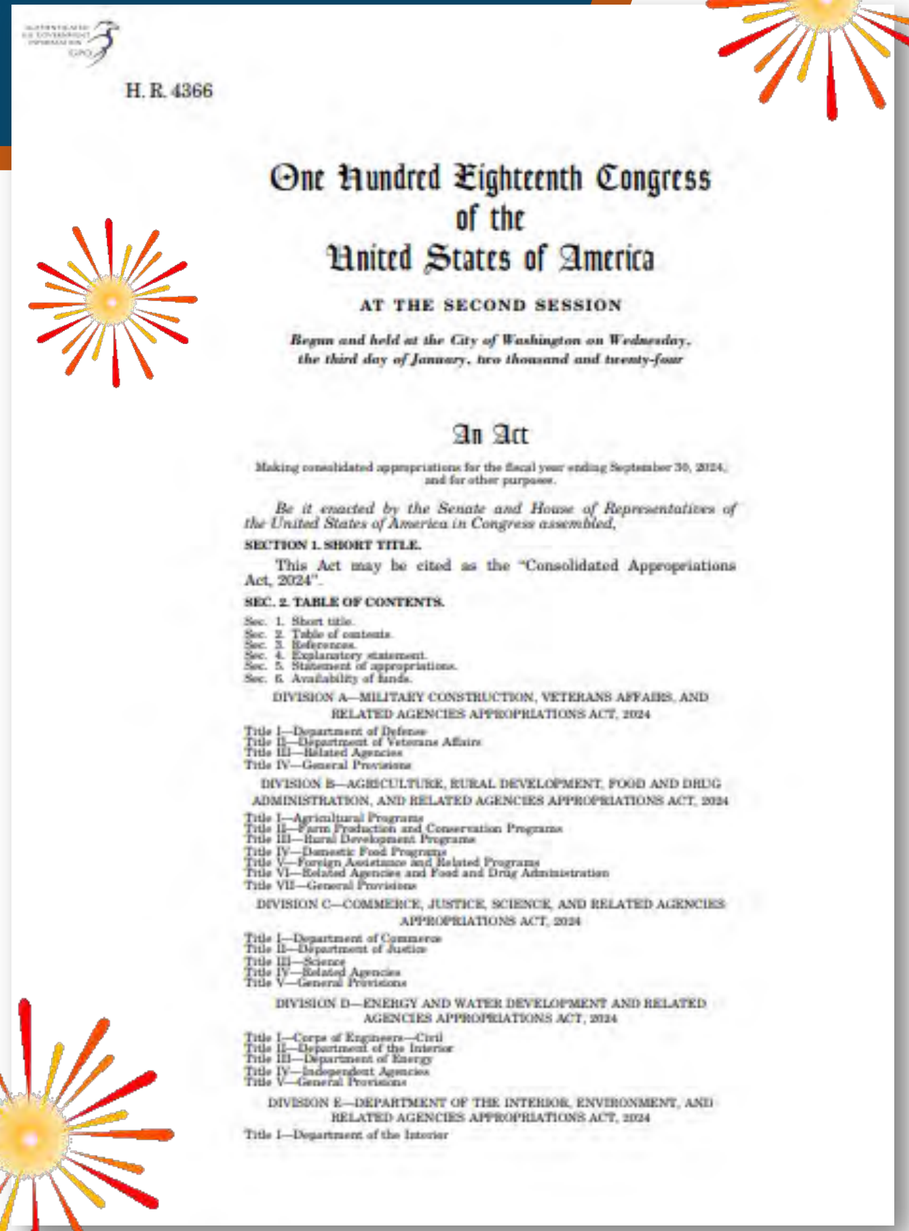
- Goal: remove territorial Medicaid cap, achieve permanent fix for Puerto Rico
- Interest in incremental change to support parity
- President's 2025 budget calls for the removal of territorial Medicaid cap while aligning matching rate with states
- Upcoming partnership with NAMD to amplify this issue



Policy Updates: COFA

– March 9: renewed Compacts of Free Association were officially signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024
  - H.R. 4366 (current CR): six fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills + COFA

– Included:
  - Renegotiated agreements, including 3.3 billion to FSM, 2.3 billion to RMI, 889 million to Palau
  - Restored COFA migrants' access to various federal benefits (SNAP, TANF, SSI)
  - VA can provide care for FAS veterans
  - NHSC services available to FAS



H. R. 4366

One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday, the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-four

An Act

Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.
Sec. 6. Availability of funds.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of Defense
Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs
Title III—Related Agencies
Title IV—General Provisions

DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Agricultural Programs
Title II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs
Title III—Rural Development Programs
Title IV—Domestic Food Programs
Title V—Foreign Assistance and Related Programs
Title VI—Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration
Title VII—General Provisions

DIVISION C—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of Commerce
Title II—Department of Justice
Title III—Science
Title IV—Related Agencies
Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil
Title II—Department of the Interior
Title III—Department of Energy
Title IV—Independent Agencies
Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of the Interior

Upcoming GAO reports

- Territorial data representation within federal statistical agency projects
  - –Anticipated late-April/early-May
- Assessing island veterans' access to care (particularly territories)
  - –Anticipated late May
  - –COFA's impact on this TBD



Island Areas Workgroup

Advancing Health Equity for U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States

- Overview
  - Seeks to advance health equity for the T/FAS
  - Targets procedures, organizational policies, and programmatic structures surrounding island health programming (“little p policy”)
- Structure
  - Quarterly meetings with leaders from island jurisdictions, federal agencies, and partner organizations (50+) featuring subgroup readouts and hot topics
  - Monthly/ad-hoc subgroup meetings

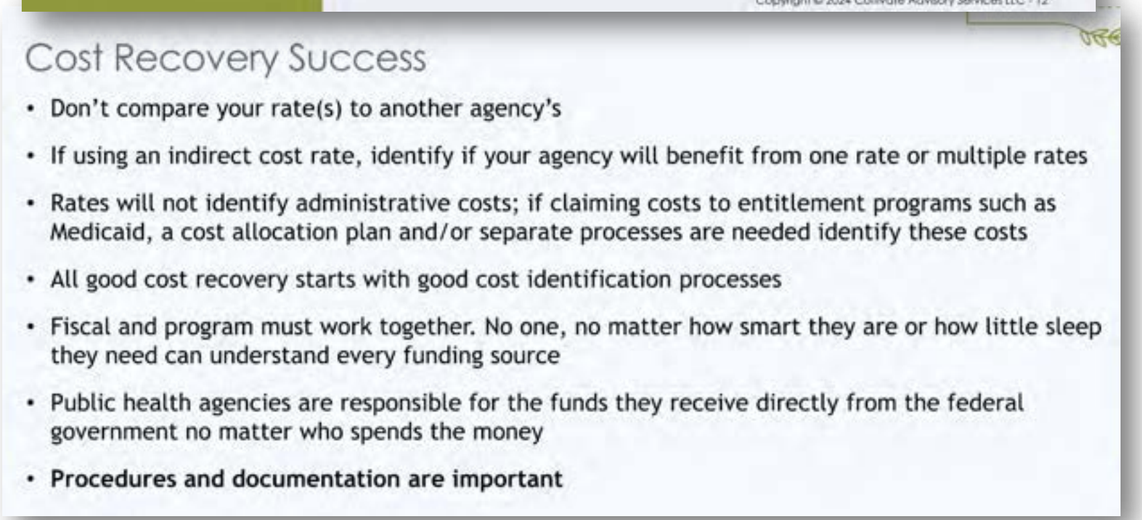


IAW: Health Financing Subgroup

- Led by Emi Chutaro and Vince Camacho
- Year 3 Focus: support T/FAS in strengthening indirect cost rate structures

- **Mar 7: ICR Webinar with Amy Ferraro Whitsett (Cultivate Advisory Services)**
  - ICR advantages, processes, and best practices
  - Shared resources to address common challenges
  - Aligns with ASTHO CFO Peer Network TA on this topic
  - Join the subgroup and peer network to participate in these conversations!





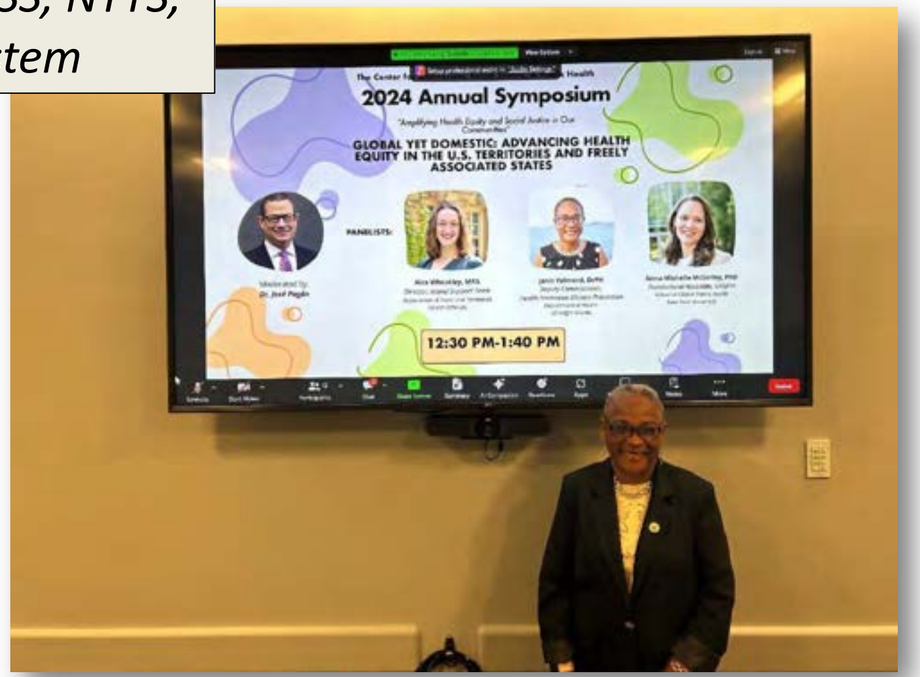
IAW: Data Capacity Subgroup



- Led by DC Janis Valmond (USVI) and Ted Trimble (NIH)
- Year 3 focus: identify requirements and local factors impacting island representation in 5-7 datasets identified in the Including Island Areas in Federal Public Health Datasets report

Tentative: *BRFSS, YRBSS, NNDSS, NVSS, NYTS, Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System*

- **Feb 27: SLF data discussion**
  - Discussion of data gaps, priorities, and Anna-Michelle as a resource
- **March 14: NYU presentation**
  - Panel discussion at NYU GPH Center for Anti-racism, Social Justice and Public Health Annual Symposium

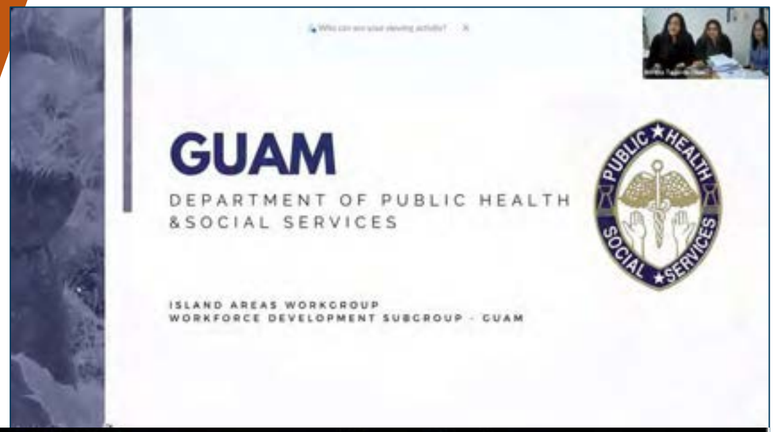


IAW: Workforce Development Subgroup

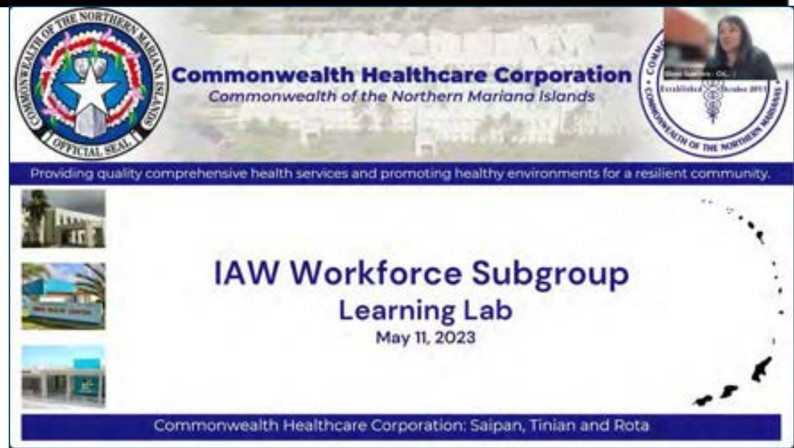
- Led by DC Joan Jean-Baptiste and Keith James (USVI)

- **Year Three Focus (part 1, complete):**
  - Completion of Learning Lab series (CNMI, USVI, Guam, Palau, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, RMI)
  - Align with ASTHO HR/WFD Peer Network

- **Year Three Focus (part 2, next):**
  - Condense Learning Labs into talking points for island and federal leadership regarding effective workforce structures for upcoming federal grant opportunities
  - Seek funding for Atlantic complement to PIHOA Pacific Workforce Enumeration and Profile







IAW: April Quarterly Meeting

Join the Next IAW Quarterly Meeting!

Washington, D.C.	USVI/PR	American Samoa	Palau	Guam/CNMI	FSM (Pohnpei)	RMI
Mon, Apr 22	Mon, Apr 22	Mon, Apr 22	Tues, Apr 23	Tues, Apr 23	Tues, Apr 23	Tues, Apr 23
6 – 8 pm	6 – 8 pm	11 am – 1 pm	7 – 9 am	8 - 10 am	9 am – 11 am	10 am – 12 pm

Join the IAW Subgroups!

For questions, comments, and inclusion in subgroups, please contact Alex Wheatley (awheatley@astho.org) or Dulce Mendoza (dmendoza@astho.org).

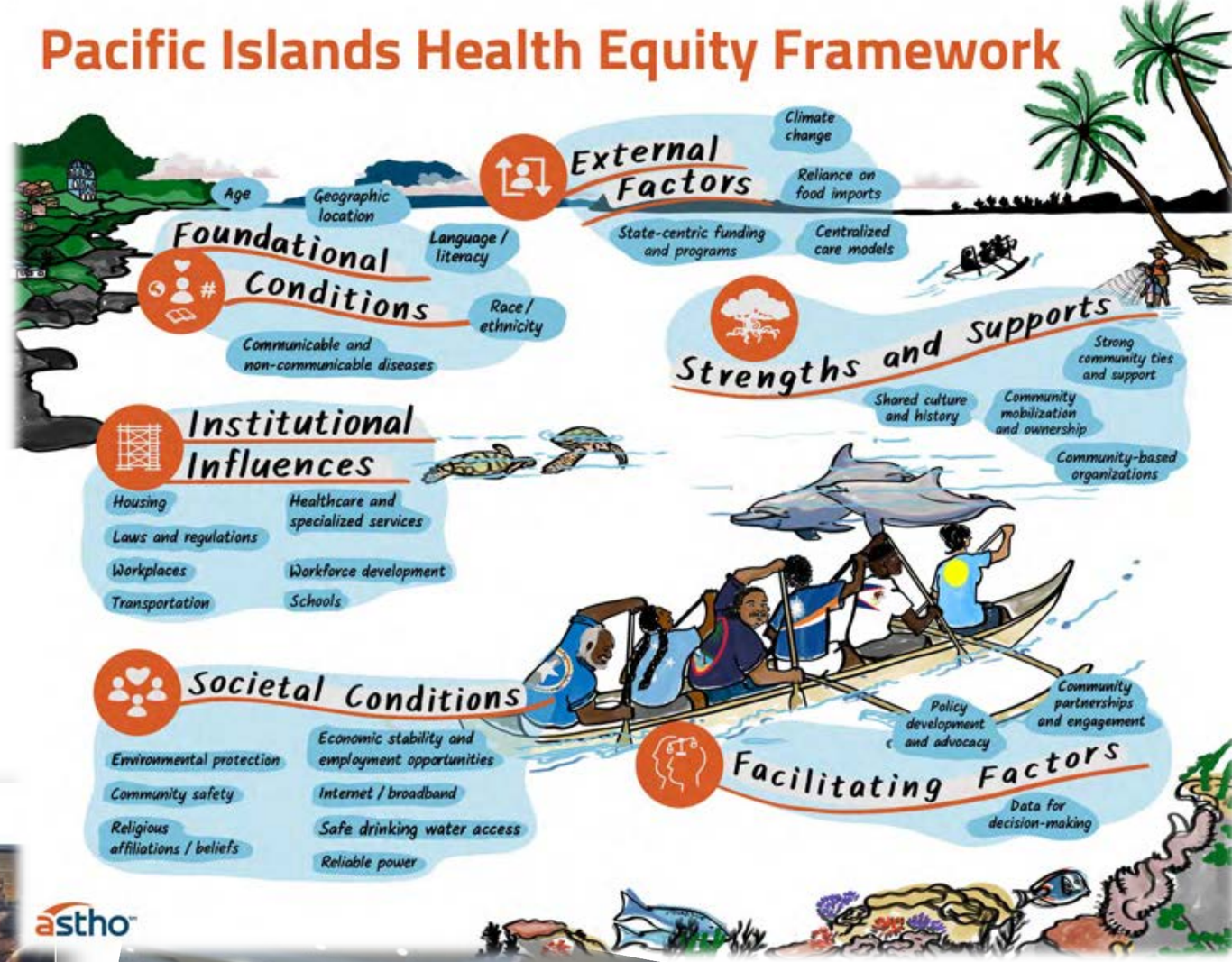


Support for Island Health Equity

(COVID19 Disparities OT21-2103)

Recent Activities


Lippincott®
Log in or Register | Subscribe to journal | Get new issue alerts
JPHMP JOURNAL OF Public Health Management & Practice
Articles & Issues | Supplements | Collections | Multimedia | For Authors | Journal Info
STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Strategies to Operationalize Health Equity in Island Area Health Departments
Ensign, Karl MPP; Wheatley, Alex MPA; Von Alexander, Julia MPA; Donnellan, Kelsey MPH; Fajardo, Neyling BA; Jade, Morgan MPH, MCHES
Author Information
Outline
Download
Cite
Metrics
Public Health Management and Practice 29(3):p 415-420, May/June 2023. | DOI:



Health Equity Action Institutes





astho™

Island Health Equity Resources

- **Data dashboards and equity** online course available now!

Many upcoming resources– check out the handout for more information:

- Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative
- Resources on visioning, certification, and braiding and layering
- How to set up a health equity office
- Tips for developing health equity indicators



Handout

ASTHO events and resources this spring

Contact information included on the document, or reach out to Karl and Alex with any questions!



Public Health Infrastructure Grant



Pacific PHIG Convening
Jan 29 – Feb 2, Guam












Island
Connections
THE WESTIN
RESORT



Workforce Development Plan (DOH only)

PHIG PARTNERS

2024

DIRECTOR NEEDED: Sign off on Scope

Tutuila Flag Day

Nurses Week

Tobacco Diabetes / Hybrid Survey

DIRECTOR NEEDED: Status Update - May

Budget Review

Manu'a Flag Day

CDC Grant Cycle End

DIRECTOR NEEDED: Draft Plan #2

PHIG Y2 End

Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec

Advisory Committee + Sponsor *Feb*

Setup biweekly meetings *Feb*

Develop contingency plan *Feb*

Assessment *Mar*

Gap Analysis + SWOT *Mar*

Brainstorm Strategies *Apr*

Prioritize Strategies *Apr*

Identify Priority Leads *May*

Implementation Plans May

Create + Review Draft Plan *Jun*

Communicate + Publish Plan *Jun*

Draft Plan #2 *Sept*

Complete Workforce Dev Plan *Oct*

Adjust + Revise Plans *Nov*

TA Request #5001 Assessment Support

TA Request #5000 HR Software Recs

TA Request #5006 Training Dev for Nurses

Key Takeaways

- Context Matters!
- Each island is unique
- In-person is best
- Virtual options in USAPI time zones
- Clarity of TA provider roles and offerings
- Regional approach
- Procurement and hiring is hard
- Connection & Relationships
- AND Really...In-person is best!

Participant Feedback

- 96% of respondents (N=49) said they are likely to apply information learned.

- 93% of respondents (N=46) said the event increased their knowledge of strategies and resources to achieve their PHIG goals.

“So much learned from this convening. I am so appreciative for it… a lot of TA out there that I am just [becoming] aware of which could of a great help to our health department community and operations.”

“We’re so grateful for this convening with our island brothers and sisters and mainland partners. We appreciate your time, effort, and resources in putting this event together. I felt so comfortable sharing our progress and challenges with everyone. A win for one island is a win for us all, and for the communities we serve.”

PHIG PARTNERS

Next Steps

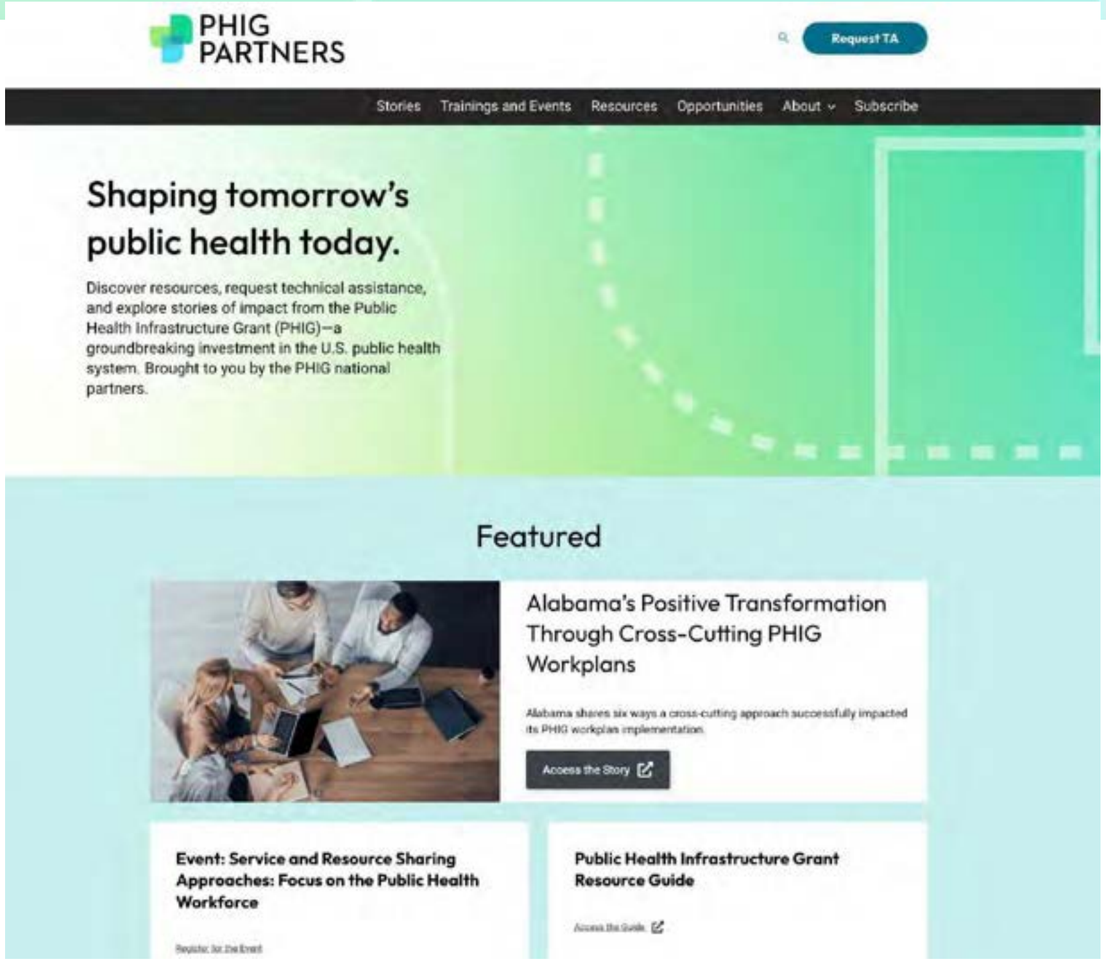
- Meeting materials have been shared with all participants
- TA Requests to be updated in PHIVE
- Ongoing TA (e.g. site visits in Palau and CNMI)
- National partners coordination
- Utilize in-person time at PHIG Reverse Site Visit?
- Capturing Success Stories

PHIG PARTNERS

www. PHinfrastucture.org

Regularly visit the PHIG National Partner Website for:

- New resources
- New events
- New success stories



Si Yu’os Ma'åse’

Fa’afetai

Mesulang

Kommol Tata

Kalahngan

Kammagar

Kulo

Kinisou

Karl Ensign,
kensign@astho.org

Lindsey Myers,
Lmyers@astho.org

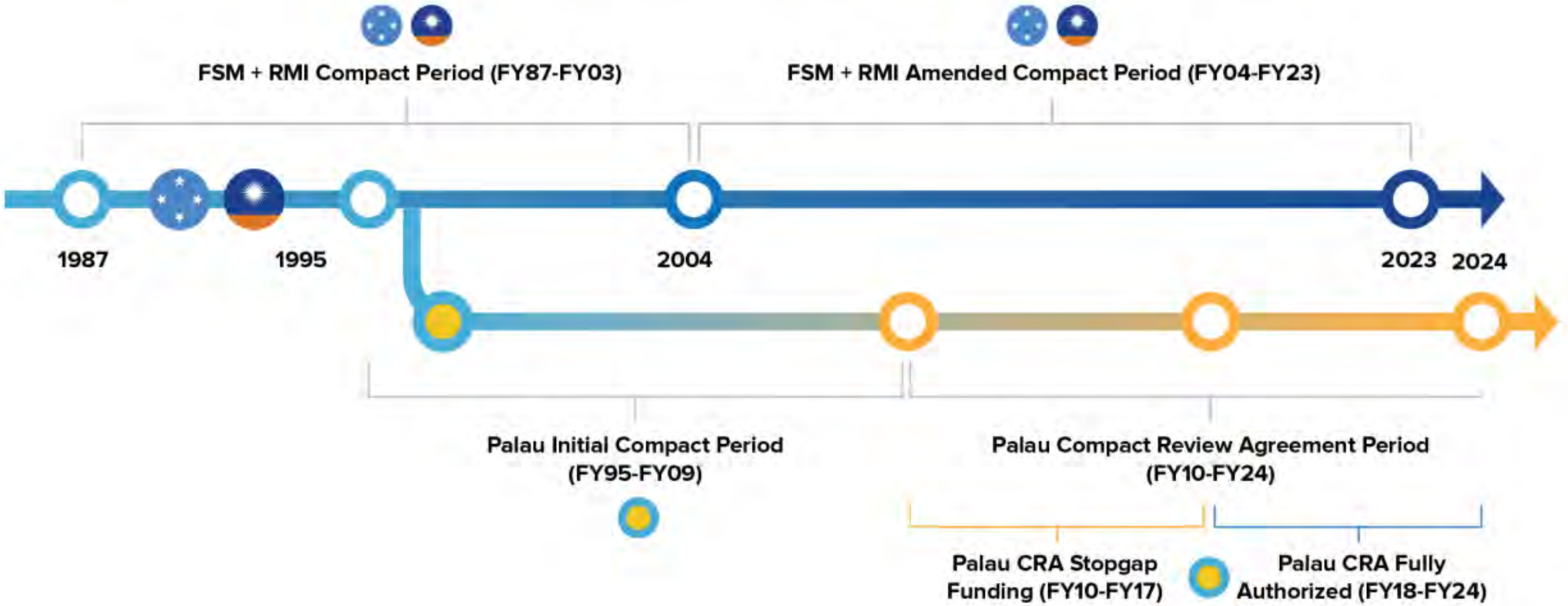
Alex Wheatley,
awheatley@astho.org

Discussion

- What are your thoughts on the recent COFA legislation?
- SLF follow up:
  - How can ASTHO (and NAMD) support incremental change toward territorial Medicaid parity (requirements and funding)?
    - Senate Minority: are there specific elements of the FMAP that islands would prioritize for more funding?
  - How can ASTHO best support social determinants of health and emerging behavioral health priorities?
    - E.g., fourth IAW subgroup, dedicated space for behavioral health conversations...
- Do you have feedback, requests, priorities for ASTHO's policy or PHIG work?

Extra slides: COFA

1. FAS Compact Periods & Performance



https://pubs.pitiviti.org/adb-dc-slides

Amended Compacts

- A few shifts relative to prior Compacts:
  - Palau, FSM, RMI on same timeline
  - Oversight modified: minimal prior approval, more reporting on use of funds
  - Shift away from “graduation” framework for trust fund use and federal assistance
  - Significant influx of funding, particularly over the next 3-5 years
  - A lot of work to ensure FAS migrants can *access* federal programs (now that they’re eligible)

3. CRA 2023: FSM [$3.3 B]

- Designed to start seamlessly at end of the 2nd Compact period
- Annual grants at **$140 million** per year in defined sectors
- No annual adjustment, negotiations resulted in replacing 2%...
- ... with **$500 million** contribution to the Compact Trust Fund ($250 million in each of FY2024 & FY2025)

3. CRA 2023: FSM, cont'd

- Treatment of the Compact Trust Fund as a **"Re-Purposed Fund"**
- Amended Fiscal Procedures
- Amended Compact Trust Fund Agreement
- Ongoing Federal Programs & Services

3. CRA 2023: Palau [$889 M]

- Designed to start one year before the 2nd Compact period ends
- Annual grants at **$30 million** per year for 20 years in defined sectors/uses with 2% annual adjustment
- Fiscal consolidation (debt repayment) of **$10 million** annually for 6 years (FY2024-2029) with no annual adjustment
- ... with **$100 million** contribution to the Compact Trust Fund ($50 million in each of FY2024 & FY2025)

3. CRA 2023: Palau

- Treatment of the Compact Trust Fund as a **"Re-Purposed Fund"**
- Amended Fiscal Procedures
- Amended Compact Trust Fund Agreement
- Ongoing Federal Programs & Services

https://pubs.pitiviti.org/adb-dc-slides

3. CRA 2023: RMI [$2.3 B]

- Designed to start seamlessly at end of the 2nd Compact period
- Annual grants at **$50 million** per year for 20 years in defined sectors with 2% annual adjustment
- Health special grant at **$8 million** per year for 20 years with no annual adjustment (and requiring RMI match)

3. CRA 2023: RMI, cont'd

- … with **$700 million** contribution to the Compact Trust Fund ($200 million in each of FY2024-2026 & $100 million in FY2027)
- Treatment of the Compact Trust Fund as a **"Re-Purposed Fund"**
- Amended Fiscal Procedures
- Amended Compact Trust Fund Agreement
- Ongoing Federal Programs & Services

3. CRA 2023: RMI, cont'd

- One-time grants of **$239 million** in FY2024:

Strategic Health Dialogue	$20 million
Climate Change Tech. Assistance	$20 million
Environmental Studies	$20 million
Environmental Programs	$10 million
Transparency	$10 million
Museum	$5 million
Kwajalein Atoll Master Plan	$132 million
Suppl. Education Grant catch-up	$22 million

https://pubs.pitiviti.org/adb-dc-slides