How island vets got VA Caregivers program

This story began when a Marianas veteran was told he did not live in America. It ended with an apology to the vet from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the agency’s agreement this April to extend the VA Caregivers program to families of Marianas veterans.

Today, because a constituent came to Congressman Sablan for help, family members in the Marianas, who care for disabled veterans, qualify to receive financial aid, including a monthly stipend, travel costs, insurance, and training from the VA.

No Medicaid “cliff” for Marianas

For the 16,206 people in the Marianas, who use Medicaid for their health insurance, there was no funding “cliff” in 2022—not will there be in the future.

Federal funding for Medicaid rose to $64 million this year, up from just $5 million when Congressman Sablan first took office in 2009.

Hearings Sablan initiated in 2019 led to passage of U.S. Public Law 116-94. As a result, funding now increases yearly by the rate of inflation, protecting those who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare and providing a reliable revenue base for medical practitioners and the hospital everyone depends on.

Greetings!

We thought the Marianas had escaped the pandemic—until October 2021. Now, many of our families have suffered loss and illness.

Fortunately, vaccines were here for all, and our hospital was well-equipped to care for those in need.

Congress had supplied the necessary healthcare funding in the American Rescue Plan Act, passed in March without a single Republican vote.

The Rescue Plan did more than protect our health. Over one billion dollars from the Plan are propping up the Commonwealth government, kept its workers paid, provided local stimulus, and put cash in the pockets of the unemployed.

Taxpayers received $1,400 impact payments, a monthly child tax credit, and for the first time in decades the Earned Income Tax Credit. All because of the American Rescue Plan.

That money in our economy helped stores and restaurants stay open, despite the fall-off in tourism; and businesses received additional grants and loans to weather the pandemic from the American Rescue Plan Act. (See pages 2 & 3)

We know it is not over. Even though COVID cases are down, the economic harm continues.

In Congress we will keep doing all we can to help you and your family stay healthy and make sure the Marianas economy comes back to life.

Inclusion. Recognition. “Including the Marianas in federal programs and raising awareness that our people are part of America, these are the principal goals of my years in office,” says Congressman Sablan. His request that the Marianas flag be added to the 50-state display around the American History Museum on the National Mall in Washington was fulfilled on Flag Day, June 14, 2022.

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Results like this are why constituents who have a problem with the federal government turn to their congressional office.

What’s Inside:
- American Rescue Plan saves the Marianas from economic disaster. See where the money went (p. 2, 3)
- Working with Rep. Tina Sablan results in Earned Income Tax Credit
- More funding means more eligible for NAP, benefits up
- Pell grants raised. Up to $6,895 for Marianas college students
- Let’s Read! more new books delivered
- Earmarks net $4.5 million for CHCC, PSS, NMC, Judiciary, Karidat in FY22
- Drinkable water: Infrastructure Act funding makes new 5-year goal possible
- List of statutory accomplishments in Congress keeps growing
**American Rescue Plan Act** 
Saves the Marianas

House Democrats 220, Republicans 0
Senate Democrats 50, Republicans 0
President Biden signs March 11, 2021

**Advance Child Tax Credit**
$14 million to 4,834 families

**Unemployment: extra 29 weeks**
$283 million to 16,788 claimants

**Nutrition Assistance Program**
$30 million

**Emergency Rental Assistance**
$10 million to 2,150 families

**Homeowners Assistance Fund**
$4 million to 300 applicants

**Public School System**
$106 million staff and teacher pay
$160 million

**FEMA assistance**
$27 million

**Small Business Credit**
$57 million

“**How would the people of the Marianas ever get by without Democrats’ American Rescue Plan?**” —Congressman Sablan

Source:
1. Office of the Governor
2. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
3. U.S. Dept. of Labor
5. Federal Aviation Administration
6. Small Business Administration
7. Federal Emergency Management Agency
8. Marianas Public School System
9. U.S. Department of Education
10. The White House
11. U.S. Economic Development Administration
American Rescue Plan Act
Saves the Marianas

House Democrats 220, Republicans 0
Senate Democrats 50, Republicans 0
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Earned Income Tax Credit\(^1\)
$16 million
to 8,277 taxfilers

Commonwealth Government
$46M local stimulus for 23,000\(^1\)
$482 million

Commonwealth Healthcare
Corporation\(^2\)
$5 million

Rota, Tinian, Saipan Municipalities
Fiscal Recovery Funds\(^1\)
$16 million

Paycheck Protection extended\(^6\)
$26 million
to 452 small businesses

Northern Marianas College\(^9\)
$6 million

Additional Child Tax Credit\(^1\)
$21 million
to 5,605 families

Childcare providers,
families with young children\(^10\)
$36 million

Rota, Tinian, Saipan airports $9 million\(^5\)
Travel and tourism $4 million\(^11\)

“...the people of the Marianas ever get by without Democrats’ American Rescue Plan?”
Congressman Sablan

“How would the people of the Marianas ever get by without Democrats’ American Rescue Plan?”
—Congressman Sablan
NAP funds upped more eligible, higher benefits

Congressman Sablan added $30 million to the American Rescue Plan and won agreement from President Biden to increase the annual grant for the Marianas Nutrition Assistance Program from $12 million to $30 million. As a result, 1,254 more people were able to sign up for food aid, bringing total enrollment to 13,050. (USDA)

Monthly maximum benefits also increased for a family of four on Saipan to $1,231, on Rota and the Northern Islands $1,498, and on Tinian $1,301, higher benefits than in most U.S. states.

6,895 College students get a raise

1,724 Marianas students (ED) saw their Pell scholarships increase to as much as $6,895 this year. Nineteen Marianas Colleges say eighty percent of students receive the Pell grants.

As a senior Democrat and subcommittee Chair, Congressman Sablan is a leader in legislation making college affordable for all.

Democrats 219 Republicans 0

Contact Congressman Sablan

Toll Free: (877) 446-3465 | Email: kilili@mail.house.gov | Website: sablan.house.gov

FY22 Marianas Congressional Earmarks: $4,527,533

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Laboratory modernization</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Telehealth upgrade</td>
<td>$952,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Rota home diaalysis</td>
<td>$311,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Medicaid, food assistance</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: School libraries &amp; e-library expansion</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Language &amp; cultural immersion program</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Innovation incubator for small business</td>
<td>$952,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Telehealth upgrade</td>
<td>$980,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Marine Academy nominations for residents of the Marianas</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Ownership of submerged lands conveyed to Marianas</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: EIA funding for the Marianas elementary and secondary schools</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Federal and State Technology grant program for youth STEM learning</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Lead Small Business Development Center grant program, AMBER Alert grant program, National Volunteer Antipoverty programs</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Emergency Food Program for Marianas community based outpatient clinic</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHCC: Infrastructure Improvements for mass transit, the hospital, libraries, Tinian dialysis, and wastewater treatment for Tinian and Rota</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Delivering Emergency Assistance Act</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Authorizes naming of Saipan Post Office</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCC: Marianas’ Caribbean Agricultural Research and Extension Service (CARES) Act</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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Members of Congress were again able to appropriate money for specific purposes in their home districts in fiscal 2022. Congressman Sablan scored $4.5 million to help the Marianas. For fiscal 2023 House appropriators have approved $26.8 million in Sablan earmarks for schools, roads, public transit, the hospital, libraries, Tinian dialysis, and wastewater treatment for Tinian and Rota.

Congress invests in infrastructure

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 is bringing $105 million more to the Marianas water system over the next five years. The goal: drinkable water for every household.

Families already have 24-hour water thanks to the annual funding formula increase Congresswoman Sablan won in her first year in office. The $52 million from the IIJA, announced as of May 3, also includes $6 million for Marianas airports and $21 million for the Kagan Watershed.

Lower taxes by working together

Representative Tina Sablan (r) and Congressman Sablan worked together to lower taxes by making the Earned Income Tax Credit available in the Marianas.

Congressman Sablan included permanent, 100% federal funding for the EITC in the American Rescue Plan. Representative Sablan wrote the law repealing the Commonwealth’s 100% tax on the Credit.

Their cooperation is bringing $6 million to 8,277 Marianas taxpayers this year.

(Source: CNMI Governor)

59,320 books delivered

Let’s Read! keeps delivering new books to the Marianas. (Source: Library of Congress)