

Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Grant Programs Fact Sheet

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The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carries out the Secretary of the Interior's (Secretary) responsibilities for U.S.-affiliated insular areas. These include the territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the freely associated states of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

OIA provides assistance to these governments to meet a variety of needs, including wastewater and solid waste systems, roads, public buildings, hospitals, schools, insular management controls, and coral reef management. OIA receives about \$75 annually in mandatory (long-term commitments guaranteed in law) and discretionary funding for assistance to the territories.

Under 48 U.S.C. 1469(d), the Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance in the form of "research, planning assistance, studies, and demonstration projects" through reimbursements to other agencies, grants to the insular governments, or employment of private individuals, partnerships or corporations. OIA provides technical assistance primarily to the territorial governments although grants to other individuals or institutions may be made with the support of the Chief Executive of the affected insular area. A detailed handbook on OIA's grant programs is available at: http://www.doi.gov/oia/budget/budhist/Complete_Manual_2.doc

Relevant Grant Programs:

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Grants:

- \$27.7 million appropriated in FY05
- territories request CIP funds through the annual grants process; funds may be used, as in the U.S. Virgin Islands in FY05, for wastewater treatment
- unique feature is that CIP funds may be used to meet the local matching requirement for capital improvement grants of other Federal agencies, subject to OIA's approval

General Technical Assistance:

- \$11.7 million appropriated in FY05
- grants are for short-term, non-capital projects and may be submitted for consideration at any time during the fiscal year

Coral Reef Initiative

- \$500,000 in FY05
- grants to improve management of coral reefs; may be submitted for consideration at any time during the fiscal year

Maintenance Assistance:

- \$2.3 million in FY05
- focuses on improving maintenance through training, education and technical advice

Water and Wastewater Projects:

- new in FY06; \$1 million requested in the President's Budget