Executive Summary

a. Problem

Saipan, in the western Pacific Ocean, is the largest island of the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a chain of 15 tropical islands belonging to the Marianas Archipelago. The Commonwealth joined the United States in November 1966. During negotiations, CNMI and the federal government agreed that the CNMI would be exempted from certain federal laws, including some concerning labor and immigration.

Only about 15 years ago, Saipan had 34 garment factories producing "Made in the USA" clothing labels for Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Gap, Levi's, Abercrombie and Fitch, Polo Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and Liz Claiborne, among other popular brands. Today, not a single factory is operating. The fragile CNMI economy was, and remains, devastated. Saipan's garment industry peaked in 1999, with over $1 billion in exports that contributed more than $80 million in direct revenues to the CNMI government. This represented as much as 30 percent of the CNMI budget.

The I-CAN project is timely because it 1) markedly boosts the number of computer literate worker in the workforce, 2) encourages public interest in computer applications including broadband, and 3) creates a more nimble labor force able to apply these newly acquired computer skills to a variety of applications.

b. Overall Approach

The three year I-CAN project will provide Basic Computer training to nearly 19 percent of the total CNMI population:

- N 1200  Project Year #1
- N 7200  Project Year #2
- N 7200  Project Year #3

Total 15,600 unduplicated persons

Table 1 includes selected population criteria

c. Areas to be Served, Target Population, Demographics
Besides English, the indigenous Chamorro language is spoken by approximately 19 percent of the inhabitants. Saipan also has large immigrant, first generation, and multigenerational ethnic groups that include persons self-identifying themselves as Chinese, Bangladesh, Pilipino, Thai, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Cambodian populations.

Table 1 includes selected population criteria

| Table 1: Selected Demographic Profile—2000 Census |
|---|---|
| Sex | Number/Percent |
| Male | 32,000 46.2% Less than 9th grade 5,794 13.8% |
| Female | 37,000 53.8% 9th – 12th grade no diploma 7,181 17.0% |
| High School Grad | 14,986 35.6% |
| Age | Some college, no degree 5,293 12.6% |
| Under 9 years of age | 11,212 16.2% Associate degree 2,341 5.6% |
| 10-19 | 8,320 12.0% Bachelor’s degree 5,342 12.7% |
| 20-34 | 27,747 40.1% Graduate or professional degree 1,186 2.8% |
| 35-44 | 12,651 18.3% |
| 45-59 | 7,400 10.7% Household Income 1999 60 and over 1,884 2.7% $-10,000 2,879 20.5% |
| $ 10-24,000 | 4,597 33.0% |
| $ 25-50,000 | 3,595 25.6% |
| $ 50-75,000 | 1,556 11.1% |
| $75,000. | 1,186 2.8% |
| Ethnicity | $ 50-75,000 $75,000. 11.1% |
| Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Island | Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Island 22,001 30.5% $ 50-75,000 $75,000. 9.9% 1,556 11.1% |
| Asian: Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, other | 38,610 54.5% |
| White | 1,240 1.8% |
| Black or African American | 41 0.1% |
| Other | 474 0.7% |

Figure 1 below, depicts CNMI relative to western Pacific nations.

Figure 1: CNMI and Pacific Nations Saipan (Latitude/Longitude 15º 12N, 145º 45E) is the largest island both geographically and in terms of population. The western side is lined with sandy beaches and an offshore coral reef which creates a large lagoon. The eastern shore is composed primarily of rugged
rocky cliffs and a reef. Its highest point is a limestone covered extinct volcano. The north section of the island is hilly and under-populated. Figure 1 below, depicts CNMI relative to western Pacific nations.

Figure 1: CNMI and Pacific Nations

d. Qualifications of the Applicant

PICAN is a nonprofit public benefits charitable organization with IRS 501 c 3 status. It is headquartered on Saipan and has regional offices in Los Angeles and in Saipan. PICAN is incorporated in accordance with (provision 4 CMC 4101 et seq. and 4103 c ) of the CNMI corporate laws. PICAN, although recently established, brings more than 100 years of cumulative IT experience in computer consultation, LAN development, computer literacy training, software troubleshooting, communication systems analysis, computer hardware selection, software selection, secured log on and virus protection to the proposed I-CAN project.

PICAN’s mission, vision and values are:

Mission

Our mission is to build strong individuals, families and communities by strengthening job skills and job success.

Vision

Our vision is of CNMI communities in which every person has opportunity for employment and opportunity for quality of life. Values

We value integrity, openness to change, diversity and education.

PICAN collaborators share the mission, vision and values. All are nonprofit community-based or public health and human services organizations:

- Guolo Rai Youth Learning Center
- Koblerville Youtth Learning Center
- San Antonio Youth Learning Center
- San Isidro Youth Learning Center
- Kagman Community Center
- Susupe Youth / Learning Center
- Youth with a Mission Basic Grant Center
- Tanapag Learning Center
- Assistive Technology Center, Capital Hill
Figure 2 depicts major communities all with one or more I-CAN Collaborative agencies.

The I-CAN project enables PICAN to set up free access computer services in 20 locations – youth learning centers, community centers for the aging, developmental disabilities, homeless shelters, respite and childcare centers.

? Garupan Youth Center in lower MIHA
? House of Manhoben
? Ayuda Network
? Youth Homeless Shelter
? Little Darling Respite and Childcare Center
? Center for Living Independently
? Sinapalu Youth Center
? Tinian Youth Center
? Man’Amko Center of San Jose, Tinian
? Rota Office of Aging (Aging Center)
? North Marianas Trade Institute Figure 2: Saipan and Tinian Map

? Annual target service population: 20 Centers x 2, 16-hour classes/month x 15 students/class x 12 months = 7200

? Monthly target service population/Center = The targeted groups and their percent of the target population is as follows:

? Youth age 12-17: 40 percent
? Young adults age 18 – 26: 30 percent
? Adults 27-55: 20 percent
? Older adults: age 56 and older: 10 percent

Participant inclusion criteria:
? Long term or prospective unemployed
? Individual, family or household income below 300 percent of federal
poverty criteria

? Read English at 6th grade level

? Citizen and/or legal resident of CNMI

? Meet age cohort targeted percent

? Small business owner(s) with annual net business revenues of $100,000

or start-up small business entrepreneurs. Priority inclusion criteria (placed at the top of training slot wait list)

? Developmental or other disability

? Living in shelter, group home, respite care and/or homeless

? Pacific Islander

We propose to use to design and install computer equipment at the 20 Computer Learning Centers is Michael Smith and Associates. They are headquartered in Los Angeles, California. In business since 2000 Michael Smith and Associates have had considerable success in setting up computers & implementing the network for hundreds of employers.

e. Jobs to be Created

All I-CAN Center services including computer instruction and coaching, education, work and/or recreational use will be available without charge to low resource youth, adults, and seniors so that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the vast resources of the Internet including job searches, information, and networking. Our intent is to increase CNMI resident competitiveness in the job market, expand their horizons and knowledge base and promote small businesses’ growth.

The three-year I-CAN project is expected to create 7 Project-related jobs during Project months 1-5, 27 jobs during months 4-36, and 30-34 permanent jobs in telecommunication, marketing and business-support beyond Project month 36.