



K.Erik Swanson, PhD
Superintendent of Education

GUAM HEAD START PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
501 Mariner Avenue, Barrigada, GU 96913-1608
Tel: (671) 475-0484 • <https://guamheadstart.gdoe.net>



25-2166

Angelina-Marie C. Lape
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2025

Per Section 642(d)(2) of the Head Start Act, the Guam Head Start Program shall ensure the sharing of information for use by the Guam Education Board (GEB) as its governing body and the Guam Head Start Policy Council (GHSPC), about program planning, policies, and Head Start operations.

- **BUDGET / FISCAL (pages 5 - 8)** – Budget Status as of September 19, 2025 is as follows:
 - FY2023 – 99.7% of the total award has been spent and/or encumbered.
 - Final drawdown for FY23 was completed today. The Final SF425 will be prepared for submission to OHS. Note that a total of \$66,831.07 will be returned to OHS from FY23.
 - \$17,879.78 for quotes that Procurement was unable to validate after the vendor for our proposed vehicle purchase filed a protest.
 - \$48,951.29 for purchase orders in which vendors were unable to deliver the goods as specified. This includes the pole padding for Head Start playground shades.
 - FY2024 – 90.4% of the total award has been spent and/or encumbered.
 - The Final SF425 will be prepared for submission to OHS. We will then work on the carryover application for the consideration of the Head Start Policy Council and GEB.
 - FY2025 – 15.5% of the total award has been spent and/or encumbered.
 - Basic Grant – 15.6% spent and/or encumbered
 - Training and Technical Assistance Grant – 4.4% spent and/or encumbered
- **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (pages 9 - 17)**

Head Start has submitted an application for one-time supplemental funding of \$1,206,715 to enhance nutrition education and services as well as to promote healthy eating for children to build a stronger, healthier island community.

 - If approved, the supplemental funding will allow Head Start programs to make significant improvements to nutrition services through four key areas:
 - **Food Service Upgrades: \$ 271,500**
 - \$ 271,500 – Purchase air curtains for all cafeteria doors at all elementary schools with a Head Start preschool classroom
 - **Materials, Supplies, and Equipment: \$ 922,390**
 - \$ 822,700 – Replace sculleries for sanitizing utensils and dishes in the cafeterias of all elementary schools with a Head Start Preschool classroom
 - \$ 59,190 – Replace children's dinnerware and tumblers as well as pitchers, serving bowls, portion control serving spoons, and food pans for all Head Start centers
 - \$ 40,500 – Purchase root-view planters for each Head Start center to engage children in center-based activities using indigenous fruit and/or vegetable seeds as part of center-based gardening activities
 - **Nutrition Education Resources: \$12,825**

- \$ 12,825 – Support the continued implementation of the *Food Friends, Mighty Moves* nutrition and physical activity curricula in Head Start preschool classrooms by purchasing food locally for weekly lessons as well as printing parent materials
- Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis with no set date for notification.
- As per the Program Instruction (PI) and the associated webinar, out of consideration for the short timeframe, Policy Council and governing body approvals did not need to be submitted with the application; however, they will be needed before awards are issued.

● **FEDERAL UPDATES:**

- ***Nationwide Injunction on Enforcement of Head Start as a Federal Public Benefit Under PRWORA (pages 18 - 44) - See attachments listed under Correspondence from Office of Head Start.***
 - Effective 9/11/2025 the HHS Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act Notice issued on July 14, 2025, 90 Fed. Reg. 31232, has been preliminarily enjoined until further notice pursuant to the preliminary injunction. The following highlights the main background aspects relevant to this matter:
 - PRWORA limits eligibility for “federal public benefits” to certain “qualified aliens” or immigrants. “Qualified” immigrants include lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, and a few others. *Id.* at § 1641. All non-citizens who do not fall under this definition, including Special Immigrant Juveniles, U visa holders, and student visa holders, are “unqualified.” To uphold this qualification status, PRWORA mandates verification of citizenship status for individuals applying for federal public benefits.
 - After declaring a national emergency at the Southern Border his first day in office, on February 19, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders.” E.O. 14218. This Order states that “[t]he plain text of federal law, including . . . (PRWORA), generally prohibits illegal aliens from obtaining most taxpayer-funded benefits.”
 - On July 14, 2025, HHS issued a Directive, effective immediately, that reinterprets PWORA’s “federal public benefit” to include an updated and expanded list of programs that provide these benefits, including Head Start, thereby requiring Head Start agencies and providers to verify citizenship and no longer offer services to “non-qualified” immigrants.
 - Based on this, Guam Head Start staff will not require verification of US citizenship and will continue to register non-citizens who meet all other eligibility requirements.
- ***Strengthening America’s Families Through Strategic Focus (pages 45 - 51) - See attachments listed under Correspondence from Office of Head Start.***
 - The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has announced a new strategic alignment initiative that will coordinate their efforts across all programs to maximize impact.
 - Priorities include promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes, promoting work and self-sufficiency, promoting marriage and family formation, gold-standard research, ensuring value alignment in funding, eliminating DEI and gender ideology in funded programs, and ending taxpayer subsidization of open borders.

- **PROGRAM UPDATES:**

- **Child Health & Safety Incident (pages 52 - 53) - See attachment listed under Correspondence from Office of Head Start.**
 - A report of a child health and safety incident that occurred on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 in one of our Head Start Preschool classrooms was submitted to OHS on September 9. Based on my interviews and investigation, this incident did not involve any of the types of incidents that require reporting as stated in ACF-OHS-IM-24-06 Reporting Child Health and Safety Incidents. However, this report was submitted out of an abundance of caution to ensure compliance with all OHS reporting requirements.
 - The submission was acknowledged by a member of the OHS centralized review team which responds to all child health and safety incident reports nationwide.
- **Program Information Report (pages 54 - 57)**
 - The Program submitted its annual Program Information Report (PIR) to the Office of Head Start by the deadline of August 31. The Head Start Services PIR Snapshot report summarizes key data on demographics and services for preschool-age children served on Guam during School Year 2024-2025.
- **Facilities**
 - Lead Testing of Paint – Finegayan I (Room 101) was tested for lead in paint due to prior positive results that required the use of lead encapsulation paint.
 - 9/5/25 – Received report regarding inspection conducted on 8/31/25. Test results indicate that LBP was detected in the door jambs and interior concrete walls. If planning any repair/renovation to the identified areas, then GDOE will need to hire a licensed lead abatement contractor to remove all LBP prior to any disturbance.
 - Information was provided to the principal, assistant principal, GDOE Safety Office, and GDOE Capital Improvement Projects.
- **Staffing (pages 58 - 59)**
 - As of 9/18/25, the Program has 13 personnel vacancies (over 15% of total positions). See the attached matrix for additional information on the following positions:
 - 3 - Community Program Aide I (2 federal, 1 local)
 - 1 - Community Program Aide II (federal)
 - 2 - Head Start Aides LTPT (federal)
 - 3 - Head Start Aides (2 federal, 1 local)
 - 1 - Head Start Teacher LTFT (federal)
 - 1 - Head Start Teacher (local)
 - 1 - Maintenance Worker (federal)
 - 1 - On-Call Substitute Teacher (local)
- **Head Start Awareness Month (page 60 - 61)**
 - President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation on October 22, 1982, officially naming October as Head Start Awareness Month. Since then, the month of October has been used to provide a dedicated time to showcase the positive effects of Head Start on children's educational, social, and emotional development, as well as the support it offers families. Attached is a copy of the Head Start Awareness Calendar given to families of enrolled children.
 - **Proclamation Signing on Friday, October 3 at 9:30am at the Dededo Sports Complex** – Head Start invites the GDOE management team, Guam Education Board members, and

members of the legislative Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting to join our Head Start children, families and staff as Governor Lou Leon Guerrero proclaims October as Head Start Awareness Month on Guam.


- **CORRESPONDENCE from the Office of Head Start (pages 8-18)**

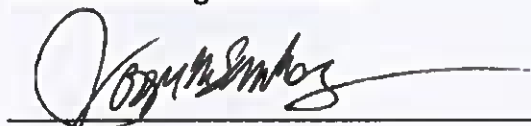
- Correspondence
 - 2025.09.09 HSES Grantee - 09CH012638 - Child Health & Safety Incident Report - Guam
 - 2025.09.12 Email Response from OHS Central Review Team
- Additional information and resources:
 - Eblast 2025.09.13 Nationwide Injunction on Enforcement of Head Start as a Federal Public Benefit Under PRWORA
 - Head Start Order Granting Preliminary Injunction - Case # C25-781-RSM
 - Eblast 2025.09.16 Strengthening America's Families Through Strategic Focus
 - ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, & Guiding Principles


- **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- Request GEB approval of the Head Start application for one-time supplemental funding of \$1,206,715 to enhance nutrition education and services for GDOE and Head Start.
- Request GEB approval to fill all current Head Start vacancies

Submitted: September 19, 2025


Angelina-Marie C. Lape
Head Start Program Director


Joseph L.M. Sanchez
Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instructional Improvement


K. Erik Swanson, PhD
Superintendent of Education