

New CDC EHDI Competing Continuation- Project Title: *Guam ChildLink*
ABSTRACT

This Cooperative Agreement application responds to CDC-RFA-DD16-1604, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Development, Maintenance and Enhancement of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System (EHDI-IS) Surveillance Programs. The title of the project is *Guam ChildLink*, the name of the tracking and surveillance system developed for Guam EHDI, through 11 years of CDC funding, to support the 7 National EHDI Goals. *Guam ChildLink* is an EHDI-IS, as it routinely collects and reports valid, verifiable, unduplicated, individually identifiable data on almost all births on Guam.

Guam ChildLink began in 2002 as a stand-alone system using an Apple computer with a File MakerPro database software, and evolved into a fully developed web-based tracking and surveillance system with over 200 data fields that can generate 50 different types of reports and interactive lists. *Guam ChildLink* provides critical data to collaborative partners to ensure all infants born on Guam receive a hearing screening before one month of age, and all infants who are diagnosed with a hearing loss are receiving early intervention services in a timely manner. In addition, it is the pioneering database system that officially shares data electronically with key units across four GovGuam agencies, a private hospital, and a private birthing center, and has been a model for electronic data exchange for other programs on Guam.

In this grant cycle, *Guam ChildLink* will establish four key goals and 12 objectives designed to develop and maintain accuracy in identifying, matching, collecting and sharing data that is unduplicated, and individually identifiable for the three components of the EHDI process (screening, diagnosis, and early intervention). This will enhance *Guam ChildLink's* capability to leverage Information Technology (IT) innovations and public health informatics solutions through continued collaborative partnerships and joint planning. It will continue to increase the EHDI operational capacity to exchange data accurately, effectively, securely, and consistently between current linkages. It is being enhanced to be interoperable with existing Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems at Community Health Care Centers on Guam. The project will reduce the duplicate data entry burden and the loss to recommended follow-up services (screening, diagnosis, and intervention) through continued refinements in data sharing with collaborating agencies. It will continue to collect and report individualized demographic and age-specific data for every birth, and track a child's status from initial screening to intervention. The project will refine the process for existing reporting sources to monitor the quality and completeness of individualized demographic, screening, diagnosis, and intervention data through quality measures. Performance measures will include process, performance, and quality assurance measures.

The goals of this *Guam ChildLink* project include: 1) Complete planned development and maintenance of the EHDI-IS; 2) Collect individualized data on every occurrent birth through the three components of the EHDI process; 3) Analyze collected EHDI data and use the findings to guide the work of the program and engage stakeholders; and 4) Strengthen EHDI-IS by using and disseminating evaluation results.

The Guam EHDI project, through *Guam ChildLink*, will continue to analyze and disseminate EHDI data and related analyses to shape the ongoing development of *Guam Child Link*, in order to inform partners and stakeholders of the program's successes and challenges. *Guam ChildLink* will continue to be refined in order to ensure that it meets the functional standards for an EHDI Information System.