

Project Title: *Guam ChildLink-Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (GCL-EHDI)*

ABSTRACT

This contract is with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) to maintain and manage the “Documentation and Use of Follow-up Diagnostic and Intervention Services Data through the Maintenance and Enhancement of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System (EHDI-IS).” *Guam ChildLink EHDI (GCL-EHDI)*, the name of the tracking and surveillance system developed for Guam EHDI, through 17 years of CDC funding, to support the National EHDI Goals. *GCL-EHDI* is an EHDI-IS, as it routinely collects and reports valid, verifiable, unduplicated, individual level data on all civilian births on Guam.

*GCL-EHDI* began in 2003 as a stand-alone system and has evolved into a fully developed web-based tracking and surveillance system with over 200 data fields that can generate 25 different types of reports and interactive lists. *GCL-EHDI* 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. It is the pioneering database system that officially shares data electronically with key early childhood serving organizations including four GovGuam agencies, and a private birthing center, and has been a model for electronic data exchange for other programs on Guam.

*GCL-EHDI* aims to continue implementation of the five key strategies designed to further improve the documentation of timely follow-up diagnostic testing and early intervention services, in order to support the early identification of Deaf and Hard of Hearing infants and help address potential developmental delays. The strategies of this *GCL-EHDI* project include: 1) Surveillance to implement a complete EHDI-IS. 2) Support in providing training and technical assistance to address the needs of state partners involved in the EHDI reporting processes. 3) Partnership to promote and support coordination and collaboration around capturing data. 4) Communication and dissemination to support targeted dissemination of data and information among stakeholders. 5) Monitoring, analysis, and evaluation to maintain data quality and guide programmatic improvement.

The intention is to continue to support GCL-EHDI system deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) infants and mitigate challenges in providing and documenting follow-up testing and intervention. This contract will continue to provide support for the maintenance and further enhancement of EHDI-IS, which serves as a powerful tool to help programs to ensure that all infants receive a hearing screening and recommended follow-up diagnostic and intervention services. Without the recommended follow-up services, D/HH infants cannot be identified early and are at risk for developmental delays. The benefits of newborn hearing screening are highly diminished when recommended and timely follow-up services are not provided to infants in need.

The Guam EHDI project, through *GCL-EHDI*, will continue to improve the capacity of the current EHDI-IS to collect and document complete, accurate, and valid data on follow-up hearing screening, diagnostic testing, and early intervention, in accordance with Goals 2-8 of the CDC EHDI-Is Functional Standards.