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Guam DPHSS Awarded Supplemental Disaster Relief for Child Care Services

Hagåtña, Guam – The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Division of Children's Wellness (DCW), Bureau of Child Care Services (BCCS) has been approved to receive supplemental disaster relief funds through the American Relief Act (Public Law 118-158). These federal funds, awarded by the Office of Child Care (OCC), are dedicated to necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of major disasters and emergencies occurring in 2023 and 2024.

The 2023 weather events, specifically Typhoon Mawar and Tropical Storm Bolaven, significantly disrupted Guam's child care system. During these events, a total of 174 child care programs were reported as damaged or closed, resulting in the temporary loss of child care services across the island. This widespread disruption impacted approximately 2,700 children and prevented many parents and guardians from returning to work or school.

The approved funding will support key initiatives to rebuild a more resilient child care infrastructure by strengthening operational capacity, financial sustainability, and emergency preparedness. It will also fund programs and conferences that address children's trauma, stress, and behavioral health challenges following disasters, while promoting post-disaster resilience, health and safety practices, and CPR/First Aid certification.

The department remains committed to ensuring that Guam's families and children have access to safe, high-quality, and reliable care as the island continues its recovery.

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