



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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DPHSS Leads Guam's 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), through the Division of Children's Wellness (DCW), Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA), are leading Guam's observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month this April 2026, bringing together government agencies, nonprofit organizations and community partners to raise awareness and promote prevention across the island.

Guided by this year's theme, "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention", this effort reflects a shared commitment to ensuring children grow up in safe, supportive environments with prevention starting at the community level.

BOSSA oversees a range of child welfare programs grounded in federal regulations and local laws, all centered on one mission: protecting children and strengthening families. As the lead agency for child protective services, DPHSS continues to guide and coordinate prevention efforts, working alongside partners to expand outreach, education, and community engagement throughout the month.

"Every child deserves to grow up safe, supported and cared for," said DPHSS Director Theresa C. Arriola. "Prevention begins with awareness and action. When support is accessible and the community stays engaged, children are better protected and families are stronger."

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero emphasized the importance of collective responsibility. "Protecting our children is one of the most important responsibilities we carry as a community. This administration continues to support efforts that strengthen families and provide the resources needed to prevent harm before it happens. When families are supported, children have the chance to grow, feel safe and succeed."

Throughout April, DPHSS is leading and participating in a series of events in collaboration with community partners to expand awareness and reach families across Guam:

- **Monday, March 30, 2026:** Joint Proclamation signing & presentation of resolutions ceremony starting 11 a.m. at the GCC Multi-Purpose Auditorium
- **Wednesday, April 1, 2026:** Division of Children's Wellness Child Abuse Prevention Month WAVE from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the old Bank of Hawaii Building in Hagåtña
- **Sunday, April 12, 2026:** ACT Autism Awareness Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Micronesia Mall Center Court
- **Wednesday, April 15, 2026:** BOSSA's Mandated Reporting Presentation at 10 a.m. via Zoom
- **Tuesday, April 21, 2026:** Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (GCASAFV) CommUNITY Wave (Time and Location to be announced)
- **Wednesday, April 22, 2026:** Erica's House Community WAVE starting 5 p.m. at Skinner Plaza
- **Wednesday, April 22, 2026:** GCASAFV CommUNITY Outreach from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Skinner Plaza
- **Saturday, April 25, 2026:** Alee Shelter Children's Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tamuning Mayor's Office
- **April 19-26, 2026:** National Crime Victims' Rights Week
- **Wednesday, April 29, 2026:** Wear Denim Day, VARO's Denim Wave starting 4:30 p.m. at Jollibee Intersection in Agaña
- **Sunday, May 31, 2026:** DCW's 3rd Annual Superhero 2K/5K Run/Walk/Fly starting 6 a.m. at CHamoru Village.

Community members are encouraged to take part in these events and stay informed. Suspected cases of child abuse or neglect should be reported immediately to the Bureau of Social Services Administration, Child Protective Services, or law enforcement so trained professional can respond.

For more information on events and services, visit dphss.guam.gov, follow @dphssguam on Instagram and @guamdphss on Facebook.

For direct inquiries, contact BOSSA at (671)475-2653 or email BOSSA@dphss.guam.gov

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