

Head Start: Statutory Background of RMI inclusion and funding

- **House FY25 Labor/HHS/Education language included to guide RMI Head Start:** “CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS. For carrying out, except as otherwise provided... the Head Start Act....(3) Not to exceed \$8,000,000 shall be available for the Marshall Islands and Micronesia for the start-up and operation of Head Start services and for the provision of training and technical assistance....” ([pages 86-87](#))

- **Legislative language authorizing Head Start in the RMI and FSM, as passed in March 2024 as part of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) provision contained [in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024, page 395](#):**

(6) Head start programs.--

(A) Definitions.--Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended, in the paragraph defining the term “State”, by striking the second sentence and inserting “The term ‘State’ includes the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

(B) Allotment of funds.--Section 640(a)(2)(B) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(2)(B)) is amended--

(ii) by amending clause (v) to read as follows:

“(v) if a base grant has been established through appropriations for the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to provide an amount for that jurisdiction (for Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency’s base grant for the prior fiscal year....”

- **Current Law, reflecting the COFA language (above) as enacted in the consolidated Appropriations Act, Macch, 2024:**

Subchapter II: Head Start Programs

§9835. Allotment of funds

(a) Distribution of appropriations; priorities, etc.

(1) Using the sums appropriated pursuant to section 9834 of this title for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate such sums in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

(2)(A) The Secretary shall determine an amount for each fiscal year for each State that is equal to the amount received through base grants for the prior fiscal year by the Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the State that are not described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **The Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year such sums as are necessary-**

(i) to provide each amount determined for a State under subparagraph (A) to the Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the State that are not described in clause (ii) or

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- (iii), by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year;
- (ii) to provide an amount for the Indian Head Start programs that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such programs under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each Head Start agency (including each Early Head Start agency) administering an Indian Head Start program an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year;
- (iii) to provide an amount for the migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, on a nationwide basis, that is equal to the amount provided nationwide for base grants for such programs under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each Head Start agency administering a migrant or seasonal Head Start program an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year;
- (iv) to provide an amount for each of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands of the United States (for Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year;
- (v) if a base grant has been established through appropriations for the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to provide an amount for that jurisdiction (for Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year; and
- (vi) to provide an amount for a collaboration grant under section 9837b(a) of this title for each State, for the Indian Head Start programs, and for the migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, in the same amount as the corresponding collaboration grant provided under this subchapter for fiscal year 2007.

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