

August 20, 2002

Honorable Faye P. Taylor
Commissioner of Education
Office of Special Education
State Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower – 6th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Dear Commissioner Taylor:

We have determined that the amendments to your State's application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 funds, under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C), can be approved. Therefore, I am enclosing your State's Part C grant award.

The approval is based upon our review and acceptance of the amendments to your State's existing application under Part C, specifically the regulations under the State Interagency Coordinating Council - §303.601(a)(1)(i)&(9) and §303.650(a)(1)-(4); Procedural Safeguards - §303.170(a)(b), §303.403(a)(4)&(c)(2), §300.506(a)(b), 300.507(c), 300.508(c), 300.509(b)(c), §300.512(b)(c) and Lead Agency Procedures for Resolving Complaints - §303.510(a)(b), §303.511(a)(b) and §303.512(b)(c), and the receipt of required assurances for FY 2002. This includes the assurance from the Department of Education that the Statewide system of early intervention services required by Part C and its implementing regulations is in effect.

Our records indicate that for the last four Part C grants for which the obligation and liquidation period has ended (grants from Federal fiscal years 1996-1999), your State has failed to spend its entire grant amount. In several of those years, substantial amounts have remained unexpended, and were in effect returned to the U.S. Treasury. These funds could have been used by your State to better serve all infants and toddlers with disabilities in your State; alternatively, if the State had, on a timely basis, elected not to receive its entire grant award, the Department could have reallocated those funds to the other States for Part C early intervention services. If by July 1, 2003, you anticipate being unable to obligate all of the funds from the Part C 2002 grant award within the obligation period, please notify us immediately of the amount you will not be using to carry out the Part C program, so that the amount can be reallocated to other States. If you are unable to obligate all funds from the Part C 2001 grant award, please notify us as soon as possible so we can reallocate the funds to other States by September 30, 2002.

The enclosed grant award for FY 2002 is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application and

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appendices, if necessary. These inquiries are needed to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to Part C.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Lee
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Brenda Bledsoe
Part C Coordinator