UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

JUL - 1 2010

Honorable Alan Levine
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
628 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 629
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0629

Dear Secretary Levine:

We have conditionally approved Louisiana's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). Our conditional approval is based on our review of the application submitted by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 21, 2010, and the revised application submitted by DHH on June 11, 2010, including policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, and certifications identified in Section II, which is incorporated by reference to this letter as Enclosure A. In addition, the State provided the following specific assurances that it will:

1. Operate consistently with the IDEA Part C requirements in 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1444 and applicable regulations in 34 CFR Part 303;
2. Ensure that the statewide system of early intervention services required by IDEA Part C and its implementing regulations is, and will remain, in effect throughout the FFY 2010 grant period; and
3. Make such changes to, and submit, for OSEP's approval, the State's policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions as are necessary to bring those policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions into compliance with the requirements of IDEA Part C, as soon as possible, and not later than the earlier of the date indicated by the State in Section II of its application or June 30, 2011. Within Section II of its application, the State has included for each requirement that it cannot meet at this time, the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with any policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions that are not yet in compliance with the requirements of IDEA Part C.

Please note that as part of your State's application for FFY 2010, your State has made an assurance, pursuant to 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect during the FFY 2010 grant period. Before adopting a new or revised IDEA Part C policy or procedure that is required under Section II.A of the State's FFY 2010 application, the State must subject those policies and procedures to the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §§303.110 through 303.113 and receive OSEP approval for them prior to their implementation.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2010 grant award for funds available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 – P.L. 111-117 for the Part C program. These funds are available for

obligation by States from July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the FFY 2010 application for Part C funds requested updated information about each State's restricted indirect cost rate. Your State indicated that DHH has a cost allocation plan that identifies restricted indirect costs that has been approved by DHH's cognizant Federal agency and is effective until amended. In Section IV.B, your agency (as the lead agency designated under Part C) indicated that it will continue to apply the currently approved cost allocation plan to its IDEA Part C FFY 2010 grant funds until a new cost allocation plan is negotiated and approved by DHH's cognizant Federal agency. Please forward a copy to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact of the new or revised cost allocation plan once it is approved by DHH's cognizant Federal agency.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that "[a] State shall not be immune under the 11th amendment to the Constitution of the United States from suit in Federal court for a violation of this [Act]." Section 606 provides that each recipient of assistance under IDEA make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under the IDEA. Therefore, by accepting this grant, your State is expressly agreeing as a condition of IDEA funding to a waiver of Eleventh Amendment immunity and to ensuring that positive efforts are made to employ and advance employment of qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under the IDEA.

The enclosed grant award of FFY 2010 funds is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries may be necessary 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,

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinator