



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

JUL - 1 2011

Honorable Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D.
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 33rd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Commissioner Fitzgerald:

We have conditionally approved Georgia's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 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 Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 10, 2011 and June 29, 2011, including the 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 2011 grant period; and
3. Make such changes to, and submit, as necessary, 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, 2012. 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.

The conditional approval for Georgia's FFY 2011 Part C grant is also based on the State's assurance document dated June 27, 2011 from DPH, in which it specifically assured that the State shall:

1. Make all changes necessary to the State's policies, procedures, descriptions, and assurances and complete all actions as specified in OSEP's June 23, 2011 memorandum to comply with the following IDEA Part C requirements in 20 U.S.C. §§1412(a)(9), 1414(d)(2)(B), 1432(4), 1436(a)(3) and (d), 1437(a)(8), and 1437(a)(9)(A) and applicable regulations in 34 CFR §§300.124, 300.323(b)(1), 303.23, 303.148(b)(1)-303.148(b)(3),

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and 303.344(h)(2), and submit to OSEP the new and/or revised policies, procedures, descriptions, and assurances as soon as they are finalized, but no later than September 30, 2011;

2. Ensure that, throughout the period that the State uses its IDEA Part C FFY 2011 grant funds, all early intervention service (EIS) programs and providers in the State will comply with all requirements of IDEA Part C, including 20 U.S.C. §§1412(a)(9), 1414(d)(2)(B), 1432(4), 1436(a)(3) and (d), 1437(a)(8), and 1437(a)(9)(A) and applicable regulations in 34 CFR §§300.124, 300.323(b)(1), 303.23, 303.148(b)(1)-303.148(b)(3), and 303.344(h)(2);
3. Provide OSEP, by August 1, 2011, a copy of the memorandum notifying all EIS programs and providers that are part of the State's IDEA Part C early intervention system of any changes that affect the provision of early intervention services under IDEA Part C, including 20 U.S.C. §§1412(a)(9), 1414(d)(2)(B), 1432(4), 1436(a)(3) and (d), 1437(a)(8), and 1437(a)(9)(A) and applicable regulations in 34 CFR §§300.124, 300.323(b)(1), 303.23, 303.148(b)(1)-303.148(b)(3), and 303.344(h)(2); and
4. Ensure that the statewide system of early intervention required by IDEA Part C, in 20 U.S.C. 1431-1444 and applicable regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, will be in effect throughout the FFY 2011 grant period.

Further, OSEP's conditional approval for Georgia's FFY 2011 Part C grant is also based on the State's completion of all actions required under its August 1, 2010 Corrective Action Plan that was required as a result of Georgia's 2010 determination based on the State's FFY 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR). OSEP appreciates Georgia's efforts to ensure the timely correction of noncompliance and looks forward to reviewing the State's timely correction data in its FFY 2010 APR, due February 1, 2012.

Please note that as part of your State's application for FFY 2011, 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 2011 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 2011 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 2011 grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 -- P.L. 112-10 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the State FFY 2011 application for Part C funds requested updated information about each State's restricted indirect cost rate. Your State indicated that DPH has a proposed cost allocation plan that the agency is in the process of having finalized and approved for the period: July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012. In Section IV.B, your agency indicated it will bill the

IDEA Part C FFY 2011 grant based on this proposed cost allocation plan until it is approved for FFY 2011, which may result in an adjustment of the final audited expenditures allowed to the Part C FFY 2011 grant funds. When a final cost allocation plan is approved for FFY 2011, please forward to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact: (1) a copy of the final cost allocation plan; and (2) details of adjustments made to GAPS/G-5 liquidations from the provisional plan after approval of the final cost allocation plan.

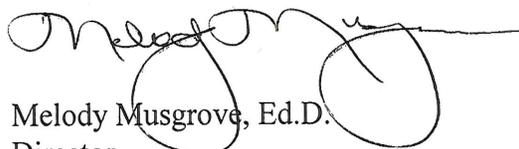
Section 604 of the IDEA provides that “[a] State shall not be immune under the 11th amendment to the Constitution of the United States from suit in Federal court for a violation of this [Act].” Section 606 provides that each recipient of assistance under IDEA make positive efforts to employ and advance 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 2011 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 IDEA Part C.

As a reminder, within 30 days of July 1, 2011, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds must report subaward information as required by the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your State’s Recovery Act Facilitator if you have further questions.

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

Sincerely,



Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinator