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

JUL - 1 2011

Honorable Brenda Casselius
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113-4266

Dear Commissioner Casselius:

We have approved your State's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 funds, under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). Our approval is based on our review of the application, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on May 10, 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. This includes the assurance from the MDE that the statewide system of early intervention services required by IDEA Part C under 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1444 and applicable regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 is, and will remain, in effect throughout the FFY 2011 grant period.

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 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