



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

JUL - 1 2011

Honorable Mary Currier, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Officer
Mississippi State Department of Health
P.O. Box 1700
570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

Dear Dr. Currier:

We have conditionally approved Mississippi'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 Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 9 and 10, 2011, 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 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.

OSEP imposed Special Conditions on Mississippi's Part C FFY 2010 grant award to ensure compliance with the timely provision of early intervention service requirements in 34 CFR §§303.340(c), 303.342(e) and 303.344(f)(1). OSEP has imposed Special Conditions regarding timely service provision requirements on Mississippi's IDEA Part C grant awards since FFY 2006.

Mississippi's February and May 2011 Special Conditions Progress Reports indicate continued noncompliance with the timely service provision requirements in 34 CFR §§303.340(c), 303.342(e) and 303.344(f)(1). Therefore, OSEP is making Mississippi's FFY 2011 IDEA Part C grant award subject to FFY 2011 Special Conditions regarding these requirements. The Special

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Conditions are set forth in Enclosure B and are imposed pursuant to the Department's authority in 34 CFR §80.12 and sections 616(g) and 642 of the IDEA. Acceptance by Mississippi of this grant award constitutes an agreement by the State to comply with the Special Conditions, which require a progress report on February 1, 2012, and a final progress report on May 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 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.

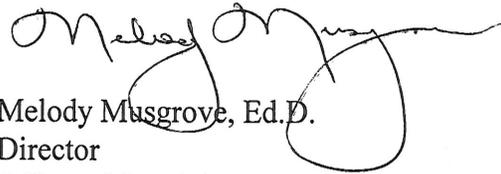
The enclosed grant award of FFY 2011 funds is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries may be necessary to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove", written in a cursive style.

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

Enclosures

Enclosure A

Enclosure B

cc: Part C Coordinator