Honorable Thomas O. Forslund  
Director  
Wyoming Department of Health  
401 Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  82002-0050

Dear Director Forslund:

We have conditionally approved Wyoming’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 Wyoming Department of Health (WDOH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 9, 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.

The conditional approval for Wyoming’s FFY 2011 IDEA Part C grant is also based on the State’s assurances, dated April 18, and April 25, 2011, from WDOH in which the State specifically assured that it shall:

1. Complete an interagency agreement between WDOH and the Wyoming Department of Education and complete all other actions as specified in OSEP’s February 2, 2011 letter to comply with the following Part C requirements, at 20 U.S.C. 1437(a)(9) and 34 CFR §303.148(c), including the applicable interagency agreement requirements at 20 U.S.C. 1437(a)(2) and 1440 and 34 CFR §§303.520 through 303.528, and submit to OSEP the new interagency agreement as soon as it is finalized but not later than June 30, 2012;

2. Include in the interagency agreement the following transition requirements in IDEA section 637(a)(9)(A)((ii)(l), and 34 CFR §303.148(b)(1), local educational agency (LEA)
Notification, and in section 637(A)(9)(A)(ii)(II), and 34 CFR §303.148(b)(2), timely transition conferences, and in section 637(a)(9)(B), and 34 CFR §303.148(b)(3), procedures to review the child’s program options, and in sections 636(a)(3) and 637(a)(9)(C), and 34 CFR §§303.148(b)(4) and 303.344(h), establish a transition plan, and in section 612(a)(9), and 34 CFR §300.124(b), individualized education program (IEP) in place by third birthday for a child eligible under Part B, and in section 612(a)(9), and 34 CFR §300.124(c), LEA must participate in the transition conference, and in section 614(d)(1)(D), and 34 CFR §300.321(f), invitation to service coordinator at Parent’s request for initial IEP meeting, and in section 614(d)(2)(B), considering individualized family services plan (IFSP) when IEP team develops IEP;

3. Ensure that, throughout the period that the State uses its FFY 2011 grant funds under Part C of IDEA, all early intervention service programs and providers in the State will comply with all requirements of Part C of IDEA, including 20 U.S.C. 1437 and applicable regulations in 34 CFR §§303.148 and 303.344; and

4. Ensure that the statewide system of early intervention required by Part C of IDEA 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.

Please note that as part of your State’s application for FFY 2011, your State has also 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 indirect costs. Your State indicated that WDOH is not charging and will not charge indirect costs to its IDEA Part C FFY 2011 grant. By accepting this IDEA Part C FFY 2011 grant, your agency (as the lead agency designated under Part C) is agreeing not to charge indirect costs to any funds awarded under this FFY 2011 Part C grant.

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.
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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 needed 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