



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

JUL - 1 2012

Honorable Hilda C. Heine
Minister of Education
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Ministry of Education
Post Office Box 3
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Minister Heine:

We have conditionally approved the Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part B). Our conditional approval is based on our review of the application submitted by the RMI Ministry of Education (MOE) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 10, 2012 and May 25, 2012, including the assurances provided in Section II and incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A. In addition, RMI provided specific assurances that it will:

1. Operate consistently with IDEA Part B and applicable regulations; and
2. Make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of IDEA Part B as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2013. Within Section II of its application, RMI has included, for each assurance it cannot meet at this time, the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes to any policies and procedures that are not yet in compliance with the requirements of IDEA Part B.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2012, RMI 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 2012 grant period. Any changes made by RMI, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of RMI's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

Enclosed is RMI's grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 -- P.L. 112-74 for the IDEA Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) program. These funds are available for obligation by RMI from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

The amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2012. Of the \$11,577,855,236 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2012, \$2,294,472,236 is available for awards on July 1, 2012, and \$9,283,383,000 will be available for awards on October 1, 2012. Under the Section 611 formula, subject to certain maximum and minimum funding requirements, State allocations are based on the amount that each State received from FFY 1999 funds, the general population in the age range for which each State ensures a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, and the

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number of children living in poverty in the age range for which each State ensures FAPE to all children with disabilities.¹

Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations.

The enclosed grant award of FFY 2012 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 B.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures

Enclosure A
Enclosure B

cc: RMI Director of Special Education

¹ The amount that a State's allocation may increase from one year to the next is capped at the amount the State received in the prior year multiplied by the sum of 1.5 percent and the percentage increase in the total amount appropriated for Part B of IDEA from the prior year. Additionally, the maximum amount that a State may receive in any fiscal year is calculated by multiplying the number of children with disabilities ages 3 through 21 served during the 2004-2005 academic year in that State by 40 percent of the annual per pupil expenditure (APPE), adjusted by the rate of annual change in the sum of 85 percent of the children aged 3 through 21 for whom that State ensures FAPE and 15 percent of the children living in poverty. Because there are multiple caps, in any year the "effective cap" on a State's allocation is the lowest cap for that State.