



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

OCT - 1 2012

Honorable Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.,
Commissioner of Health
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Shah:

We have conditionally approved New York's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 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 New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 12, 2012, June 6, 2012, and September 21, 2012. The effective date of the grant is September 21, 2012.

Our conditional approval of the State's FFY 2012 IDEA Part C grant is also based on the State's policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, and certifications identified in Section II, which is incorporated by reference to this grant award letter as Enclosure A. This section was submitted by the State in revised form on September 21, 2012 in response to OSEP's June 12, 2012 memorandum, which identified specific issues with the State's April 12, and June 6, 2012 application submissions. Our approval is also based on the State's certification under Section II.D of its FFY 2012 application that the State will:

1. Operate throughout the period of the FFY 2012 grant award consistently with the requirements of the IDEA as found in 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1443 and the final regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 (as published on September 28, 2011); and
2. Make such changes to existing 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, 2013. *See*, 34 CFR §76.104.

As part of your State's application for FFY 2012, your State has made an assurance, under Section II.C.2 of its FFY 2012 application and 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.

Before adopting a new or revised IDEA Part C policy or procedure that is required under Part C of the IDEA or the final regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, the State must subject those policies and procedures to the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §303.208 and receive OSEP approval for those policies and procedures referenced in 34 CFR §303.101(c) prior to their implementation.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2012 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 -- P.L. 112-74 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by States from the effective date of the grant award, which for New York is September 21, 2012, through September 30, 2014 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the State FFY 2012 application for Part C funds requested updated information about each State's restricted indirect cost rate. Your State indicated in Section IV.B that NYSDOH has a restricted indirect cost rate that expired on March 31, 2012, and the agency is in the process of negotiating a new restricted indirect cost rate that will be in effect for the FFY 2012 grant period including these dates: April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013. In Section IV.B, NYSDOH indicated it will continue to bill the IDEA Part C FFY 2012 grant based on this previously approved restricted indirect cost rate until a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement is approved for FFY 2012, which may result in an adjustment of the final audited expenditures allowed to the Part C FFY 2012 grant funds. When a final restricted indirect cost rate is approved for FFY 2012, please forward to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact: (1) a copy of the final restricted rate agreement; and (2) details of adjustments made to GAPS/G-5 liquidations from the provisional or prior billing rate after approval of the final rate.

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 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 C.

As a reminder, by the end of the following month from when the award was made or obligated, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds must report subaward information as required by the Federal Funding 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

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinators