



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

August 20, 2013

Honorable Terrence W. Macy  
Commissioner  
Department of Developmental Services, DMR Central  
460 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1630

Dear Commissioner Macy:

We have conditionally approved Connecticut's application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). The effective date of the State's IDEA Part C grant award is August 13, 2013. Our conditional approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 19, 2013, April 26, 2013, July 5, 2013 and August 13, 2013.

Our conditional approval of the State's FFY 2013 IDEA Part C grant is also based on the State's policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, and certifications identified in Section II.A, II.B, and II.C, which is incorporated by reference to this grant award letter as Enclosure A. Our approval is also based on the State's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2013 IDEA Part C application, in which section the State certifies under 34 CFR §76.104 that it will:

1. Operate throughout the period of the FFY 2013 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.A or B of its application or June 30, 2014.

The conditional approval for Connecticut's FFY 2013 IDEA Part C grant is also based on the State's assurance, dated August 12, 2013, from the Department of Developmental Services in which the State specifically assured that it shall:

1. Make, as soon as possible, all changes necessary to the State's SOP policy (embodied in Connecticut regulations sections 17a-248-12(e) and 17a-248-13, Chapter 4 of Connecticut DDS's Policy Manual, and DDS's Application for Income Adjustment Form (Form)), that were identified in OSEP's July 26, 2013 memo to comply with the IDEA Part C requirements in 34 CFR §§303.520(b)(1)(iii) and 303.521(a)(4)(iv);
2. Submit to OSEP by October 1, 2013, a copy of the draft revised Connecticut regulations prior to the public comment period for the regulations and submit to OSEP promptly after the public comment period, any subsequent revised drafts of the State's SOP policy that are circulated publicly or with the Connecticut legislature; and

3. Submit to OSEP as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2014, or within nine months of the date of this assurance (whichever is later) the revised SOP policy (including the final revised regulations, manual, and Form referenced above) that are required to be submitted under Section II.A of the IDEA Part C grant application.

OSEP's conditional approval of the State's FFY 2013 application is also based on our approval of the State's policies, procedures, descriptions and agreement submitted under Sections II.A.2 (Description of Part C Services), II.A.4 (Definition of developmental delay), II.A.7 (CAPTA), II.A.8 (Geographic Equity), II.A.9 (Public Participation), II.A.10 (Transition policies and agreement), II.A.11 (Head Start), and II.A.12 (Equitable Participation) of the IDEA Part C grant application, which were referenced in OSEP's June 21, 2013 memo to the State.

As part of your State's application for FFY 2013, your State has made an assurance, under Section II.C.2 of its FFY 2013 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 2013 grant period.

Before adopting a new or revised IDEA Part C policy or procedure that is required under Part C of the IDEA or under 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, for those policies and procedures specifically referenced in 34 CFR §303.101(c), receive OSEP approval prior to their implementation.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2013 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 -- P.L. 113-6 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by States from the effective date of the grant award through September 30, 2015 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the State FFY 2013 application for Part C funds requested updated information about each State's restricted indirect cost rate. Your State indicated in Section IV.B that DDS has a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement that has been approved by DDS's cognizant Federal agency and is effective until June 30, 2014. In Section IV.B, your agency (as the lead agency designated under Part C) indicated that it will continue to apply the currently approved restricted indirect cost rate to its IDEA Part C FFY 2013 grant funds until a new restricted indirect cost rate agreement is negotiated and approved by DDS's cognizant Federal agency.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that "[a] State shall not be immune under the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2013 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, 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. First-tier subaward information must be reported by the end of the following month from when the award was made or obligated. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your State's Fiscal Accountability 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Musgrove Ed.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Enclosure:

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinator