



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

July 3, 2013

Honorable Francisco Joglar Pesquera, M.D.

Secretary

Puerto Rico Department of Health

P.O. Box 70184

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8184

Dear Secretary Joglar Pesquera:

We have conditionally approved Puerto Rico'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 Commonwealth's IDEA Part C grant award is July 2, 2013. Our conditional approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 17, 2013, June 6, 2013, and July 2, 2013.

Our conditional approval of the Commonwealth's FFY 2013 IDEA Part C grant is based on the Commonwealth'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. OSEP's June 26, 2013 Memorandum approved PRDH's policies and procedures submitted under Sections II.A.2, II.A.4, and II.A.7 of the FFY 2013 application.

Our approval is also based on the Commonwealth's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2013 IDEA Part C application, in which section the Commonwealth 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 II. B of its application or June 30, 2014.

As part of PRDH's application for FFY 2013, the Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth'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 IDEA grant recipients from the effective date of the grant award through September 30, 2015 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the FFY 2013 application for Part C funds requested updated information about each IDEA grant recipient's restricted indirect cost rate. The Commonwealth indicated in Section IV.B that PRDH has a final restricted indirect cost rate of 5.20% that expired on June 30, 2013, and the agency is in the process of negotiating a new restricted indirect cost rate that will be in effect for the FFY 2013 grant period. In Section IV.B, PRDH indicated it will continue to bill the IDEA Part C FFY 2013 grant based on this previously approved restricted indirect cost rate until a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement is approved for FFY 2013, which may result in an adjustment of the final audited expenditures allowed to the Part C FFY 2013 grant funds. When a final restricted indirect cost rate is approved for FFY 2013, please forward to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact a copy of the final restricted rate agreement.

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, the Commonwealth 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 the Commonwealth'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." The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinator