



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

September 11, 2014

Honorable Lillian M. Lowery
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595

Dear Superintendent Lowery:

We have approved Maryland's application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 funds, under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). Our approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by the Maryland State Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 15, 2014. We issued Maryland's IDEA Part C FFY 2014 grant award originally on July 1, 2014, which is the effective date of this grant award. We are reissuing this revised grant letter for the sole purpose of correcting Enclosure A to accurately reflect Maryland's April 15, 2014 application.

Our approval of the State's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C grant includes approval of 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 approval is based on our approval of the April 2, 2014 "Early Childhood Intra-Agency Agreement" submitted on April 15, 2014 under Section II.A.10 of Maryland's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C application. Our approval is also based on the State's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2014 application that the State's provisions meet the requirements of IDEA Part C 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 that the State will operate its Part C program in accordance with all of the IDEA Part C requirements including required policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances and certifications. See, 34 CFR §76.104.

As part of the IDEA Part C application for FFY 2014, your State has made an assurance, under Section II.C.2 of its FFY 2014 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 2014 grant period.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2014 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 – P.L. 113-76 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by IDEA grant recipients from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

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 2014 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. If your State revises those IDEA Part C policies or procedures that are 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.

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, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: State Part C Coordinator