



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

July 9, 2014

Honorable Retta Ward
Secretary
New Mexico Department of Health
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Suite N 4100
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Secretary Ward:

We have conditionally approved New Mexico's application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). The effective date of New Mexico's IDEA Part C FFY 2014 grant award is July 9, 2014. Our conditional approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 13, June 20, July 1, and July 9, 2014.

Our conditional approval of the State's FFY 2014 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. OSEP's approval of New Mexico's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C application is also based on our approval of the policies, procedures, agreement, and descriptions submitted by NMDOH on May 13 and 20, 2014 under Sections II.A.7 (CAPTA), Section II.A.9 (Public Participation), and Section II.A.10 (Early Childhood Transition Policies and Agreement) approved in OSEP's May 28, 2014 Memorandum. OSEP's approval of the New Mexico's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C application is also based on our approval of the revised policies and procedures submitted by NMDOH on June 30, 2014 under Sections II.A.3a (System of Payments) and II.A.4 (Definition of Developmental Delay/Evaluation and Assessment) to address the issues identified in OSEP's May 28, 2014 Memorandum.

Further, our approval is based on the State's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2014 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 2014 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 either the date indicated by the State in Section II.A or B of its application or June 30, 2015, whichever is earlier.

As part of your State's 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 States from the effective date of the grant award through September 30, 2016 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the IDEA Part C FFY 2014 application requested updated information about each how your lead agency implements the restricted indirect cost rate requirements in 34 CFR §303.225(c). New Mexico indicated in Section IV.B that NMDOH has a restricted indirect cost rate that expired on June 30, 2014, and the agency is in the process of negotiating a new restricted indirect cost rate that will be in effect for the FFY 2014 grant. In Section IV.B, your lead agency also indicated it will continue to bill IDEA Part C FFY 2014 grant funds based on this provisional restricted indirect cost rate until a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement is approved for FFY 2014, which may result in an adjustment of the final audited expenditures allowed to the Part C FFY 2014 grant funds. When a final restricted indirect cost rate is approved by NMDOH's cognizant Federal agency for FFY 2014, please forward a copy of it to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact.

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 adopts 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, it 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.

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 horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

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

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: State Part C Coordinator