

July 1, 2017

Honorable Tony L. Dearman, Director  
Director  
Bureau of Indian Education  
1849 C Street NW  
MS-4657-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Dearman:

Please find enclosed the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These funds are to be distributed under IDEA section 643(b) to those tribes and tribal organizations (as defined by Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), or consortia of those tribal entities on reservations that are served by elementary and secondary schools for Indian children operated or funded by the DOI, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

Under IDEA section 643(b)(4), tribes, tribal organizations, or their consortia (all of which are referred to in this letter as tribal entities) must use these funds to assist State lead agencies under Part C of the IDEA in child find, screening, and other procedures for the early identification of children under three years of age who may be eligible for early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA as well as to provide parent training for, or early intervention services to, infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families who reside on reservations.

These funds are also issued with the understanding that the BIE will continue to submit the required biennial report under IDEA sections 618(a)(1)(B) and (C) and 643(b)(5) the identification of, and provision of early intervention services to, infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, and the annual report under the IDEA Part C regulations in 34 CFR §303.731(e) regarding payments made by the BIE to tribal entities. The BIE submitted on December 12, 2016, the Biennial Report regarding the summary of Tribes or Tribal Organizations Part B 619 and Part C funds from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. The BIE submitted on June 8, 2017 its FFY 2016 annual report regarding payments made by the BIE to tribal entities and identifying the payment and allocation dates. OSEP has provided feedback to BIE on these reports and will respond under separate cover to these reports.

Enclosed are the BIE's funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, P.L. 114-113 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by IDEA grant recipients July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709. The enclosed FFY 2017 BIE funds are awarded with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require additional information. 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

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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 Fiscal Accountability Facilitator if you have further questions.

We appreciate the BIE's ongoing commitment to the identification of, and provision of early intervention services to, infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families residing on reservations.

Sincerely,

/S/

Ruth Ryder  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

cc: A. Sue Bement, FACE, Early Childhood Director