

July 1, 2018

Honorable David Wilkinson
Commissioner
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Commissioner Wilkinson:

We have approved Connecticut's application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 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 Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on August 16, 2017, April 27, 2018, June 7, 2018, June 11, 2018, June 20, 2018 and June 27, 2018.

Our approval of the State's FFY 2018 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. Our approval is also based on the State's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2018 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 regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, 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.

OSEP's approval of the State's FFY 2018 IDEA Part C application is also based on our approval of Section II.A.2. Description of Early Intervention 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 and II.A.11. Equitable Participation approved in the June 21, 2013 memo to the State. In addition, OSEP's approval is also based on the System of Payments policies: (1) Connecticut Birth to Three System of Payments Policy for Families, (2) Policy Manual, (3) Payments to Programs and (4) Family Cost Participation submitted under Section II.A.3 by the State on August 16, 2017, April 27, 2018, June 7, 2018, June 11, 2018 and June 20, 2018, and approved with the FFY 2018 grant application.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2018 grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2018, Title III of Division H, P.L. 115-141 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by IDEA grant recipients from July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Under IDEA Section 605, and 2 CFR Part 200, and 34 CFR §303.104, the State must obtain prior approval to charge the following expenses as direct costs: (1) equipment (2 CFR §200.33 and 34 CFR §303.104); (2) participant support costs (2 CFR §200.75); (3) construction/renovation (2 CFR §200.12(b) and 34 CFR §303.104); and (4) rent (2 CFR §200.465 and 34 CFR §303.225(d)). The State identified such costs in Section III of its application but OSEP's approval of the FFY 2018 IDEA Part C grant application does not constitute approval for such costs given that the

State must provide additional information to obtain prior approval. Please contact your OSEP State Lead for further assistance.

Section IV.B of the IDEA Part C FFY 2018 application requested updated information about how your lead agency implements the restricted indirect cost rate requirements in 34 CFR §303.225(c). Your State indicated in Section IV.B that OEC has a restricted indirect cost rate of 2.15% that expires on June 30, 2018, and the State lead agency is in the process of negotiating a new restricted indirect cost rate that will be in effect for the FFY 2018 grant period. In Section IV.B, your lead agency also indicated it will continue to bill IDEA Part C FFY 2018 grant funds based on this previously approved restricted indirect cost rate until a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement is approved for FFY 2018. Under 2 CFR §200.210(a)(15), by accepting this IDEA Part C FFY 2018 grant, your State lead agency will continue to bill the IDEA Part C FFY 2018 grant funds based on this previously approved restricted indirect cost rate, to the extent authorized by your cognizant Federal agency, until a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement is approved for FFY 2018. When a final restricted indirect cost rate is approved by your cognizant Federal agency for FFY 2018, you must forward a copy of it to the Department's Indirect Cost Group and to your OSEP State Lead.

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 2018 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 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 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.

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We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

/S/

Ruth E. Ryder
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: Part C Coordinator