



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 19, 2011

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

During the week of November 1, 2010, staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) conducted the first of two monitoring reviews of your State's implementation of the SFSF program. Your State's SFSF contacts were extremely helpful in coordinating and responding to this desk review.

During the monitoring review, we discussed your State's policies, procedures, and activities related to the SFSF program. We spoke with officials at local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) that have received Education Stabilization Fund grants, as well as with representatives of entities that have received Government Services Fund (GSF) grants. A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively to meet the financial needs of LEAs, IHEs, and other State agencies. The results of our review demonstrate Louisiana's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency.

The Department identified no substantive issues with the State's implementation of the program; however, the Department has one recommendation the State's timing of the monitoring procedure. While it was clear that the State established monitoring protocols and procedures for verifying use of funds, GSF and IHE sub-grantees indicated they were unsure when the State's monitoring review would occur. The Department recommends that the State notify sub-grantees before monitoring them and clearly communicate any changes to the established monitoring schedule.

<http://www.ed.gov>

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Louisiana. Monitoring not only helps States to achieve high-quality implementation but also helps the Department to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in this effort. As we work together, we want this process to be interactive and helpful.

We will contact your office in the near future to schedule the second monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in Louisiana who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Barry Busse
cc: Dianne Shelmire