



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

Honorable Alice Seagren  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Education  
1500 Highway 36 West  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113-4266

Dear Commissioner Seagren:

This is to inform you that we have conditionally approved Minnesota's Application, including policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances, for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our determination that you are eligible for a conditional approval is based on our receipt of the Part C Application for FFY 2006, including the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, certifications, and submission statement submitted by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 4, 2006 and amended on June 15, 2006 in which it assures that it will:

1. Operate consistent with the Part C requirements of PL 108-446 and its applicable regulations in 34 CFR Part 303;
2. Ensure that the Statewide system of early intervention services required by Part C and its implementing regulations is in effect throughout the FFY 2006 grant period; and
3. Make such changes to, and submit for OSEP's approval, existing policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions as are necessary to bring those policies, procedures, methods and descriptions into compliance with the requirements of Part C of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than the earlier of the date indicated by the State in Section II of its application or June 30, 2007. Section II of the State's application (which is incorporated by reference and enclosed with this grant letter) identifies the IDEA statutory sections for which the State needs to amend policies, procedures, methods and descriptions and the timelines by which the State will amend any policies, procedures, methods and descriptions in order to comply with Part C of the IDEA. Within Section II, the State has included the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with any policies, procedures, methods and descriptions that are not yet in compliance with the requirements of Part C of the IDEA, as amended.

Our determination that you are eligible for a conditional approval is also based on our receipt of the May 30, 2006 Memorandum from MDE to OSEP, in which MDE assures that it shall:

1. Make all changes necessary to the State's regulation at MDE Section 3525.1350 and to monitoring checklist 3.5 as specified in OSEP's May 26, 2006 Memorandum and November 14, 2005 letter to revise MDE Section 3525.1350 to be consistent with Part C requirements, at 20 U.S.C. 1432(5)(A) and 34 CFR §§303.16(a) and 303.322(b)(1) and (c)(3)(ii), and submit the revised regulation, policies, procedures, and monitoring checklist 3.5 to OSEP by June 30, 2007;
2. Throughout the period of the State's grant award for fiscal year 2006 under Part C of IDEA, the State will ensure that all providers in the State will comply with all requirements of Parts A and C of IDEA, including 20 U.S.C. 1432(4)(B) and §303.520(b)(3)(ii) (including, if necessary, sending a memorandum to all agencies and providers that are part of the State's Part C early intervention system to inform them of changes that impact on the provision of early intervention services in the State with respect to the above-identified Part C requirements); and
3. Ensure that the Statewide system of early intervention required by Part C of IDEA at 20 U.S.C. 1431-1444 and regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 will be in effect throughout the FFY 2006 grant period.

Enclosed is the State's grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Education FFY 2006 Appropriations Act for the Part C program. These funds are for use primarily in the fiscal year 2006-2007 and are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2008.

The enclosed grant award for FFY 2006 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 are needed to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to Part C.


Please note that as part of your State's Application for FFY 2006, your State has made an assurance, under 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the FFY 2006 grant period. Any changes made by the State to its FFY 2006 Application or its Part C policies, after OSEP's approval, must meet the applicable public participation requirements in Part C of the IDEA and may also need to be submitted to OSEP for approval prior to implementation.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that "[a] State shall not be immune under the eleventh 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. Therefore, by accepting this grant a 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.

Page 3 – Honorable Alice Seagren

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 that reads "Alexa Posny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A

cc: Marty Smith  
Part C Coordinator