



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Honorable D. Kent King
Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson, City, Missouri 65102-0480

JUL 3 2006

Dear Commissioner King:

This is to inform you that we have conditionally approved Missouri'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 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 6, 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.

The conditional approval for the State's FFY 2006 Part C grant is also based on the assurance dated June 14, 2006 from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MDESE) in which it specifically assured that it shall: (1) Submit by December 1, 2006 its revised system of payment policies and procedures to OSEP to

be consistent with 20 U.S.C. §1432(4) and 34 CFR §§303.173, 303.520, and 303.521(b), as specified in OSEP's June 12, 2006 Memorandum to MDESE; (2) Ensure compliance, in the interim, with the Part C requirements at 20 U.S.C. §1432(4) and 34 CFR §§303.173, 303.520, and 303.521(b), including sending a memorandum to all agencies and providers that are part of Missouri's Part C early intervention system to inform them of changes that impact on the provision of early intervention services in Missouri (including clarifying that families are not charged for early intervention services under Part C); and (3) Ensure that the Statewide system of early intervention required by Part C of IDEA found 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.

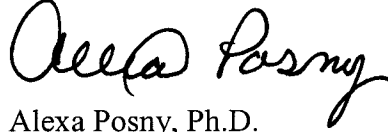
OSEP's March 14, 2006 letter regarding the State's Performance Plan (SPP) required Missouri to submit, by June 1, 2006, updated information and data regarding the State's compliance with Part C requirements related to the 45 day timeline for completion of an evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP meeting and a general supervision system that identifies and timely corrects noncompliance. Missouri's May 31, 2006 submission provided OSEP with updated information and compliance data that indicate continued improvement in these areas. The State's submission also resolved another SPP issue regarding due process hearing timelines. OSEP appreciates the State's efforts to address these issues, and looks forward to reviewing the State's updated data in the FFY 2005 APR, due February 1, 2007.

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.

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 "Alexa Posny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexa" being more prominent than the last name "Posny".

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A

cc: Joyce Jackman
Part C Coordinator