



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

Honorable Rita H. Inos  
Commissioner of Education  
CNMI Public School System  
P.O. Box 501370 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

OSEP 2006

Dear Commissioner Inos:

This is to inform you that we have conditionally approved the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) 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 CNMI Public School System to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on March 27, 2006 and amended on May 8, 2006 and May 30, 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;
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 CNMI in Section II of its application or June 30, 2007. Section II of CNMI's application (which is incorporated by reference and enclosed with this grant letter) identifies the IDEA statutory sections for which CNMI needs to amend policies, procedures, methods and descriptions and the timelines by which CNMI will amend any policies, procedures, methods and descriptions in order to comply with Part C of the IDEA. Within Section II, CNMI 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; and
4. The conditional approval for CNMI's FFY 2006 Part C grant is also based on CNMI's May 2, 2006 assurance that no later than June 30, 2007, it will:
  - (a) Make all changes necessary to its interagency agreement between the CNMI Public School System and the Department of Public Health consistent with Part C requirements as specified in OSEP's April 26, 2006 Memorandum to CNMI, and submit the revised and executed interagency

- agreement to OSEP, no later than June 30, 2007;
- (b) Ensure compliance in the interim with the following Part C regulations: 34 CFR §§303.12(d)(15); 303.148(b)(2)-(4); 303.321(e)(2); 303.322(e)(1); 303.342(a); 303.344(d); 303.523(b) and (c)(2)(ii); 303.524; and 303.525; and the following 2004 amendments to the IDEA: Sections 602(1)(B); 632(4)(E)(iii); 634(1); 635(a)(2); 637(a)(6); and 637(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II);
  - (c) Send a memorandum to all agencies and providers that are part of CNMI's early intervention system to inform them of the changes that impact on the provision of early intervention services with respect to the above-identified Part C requirements; and
  - (d) Ensure that the statewide system of early intervention required by Part C of the IDEA at 20 U.S.C. §§1431 through 1443, as amended by P.L. 108-446, and Part C regulations at 34 CFR Part 303 will be in effect throughout the FFY 2006 grant period.

CNMI's FFY 2006 IDEA Part C grant award is being released subject to special conditions regarding the Single Audit Act, that are being imposed pursuant to the Department's authority in 34 CFR §80.12. Enclosure B, the U.S. Department of Education's June 1, 2006 letter to CNMI (which is incorporated to the grant letter by this reference), identifies the specific conditions.

Enclosed is CNMI'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 and territories 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.

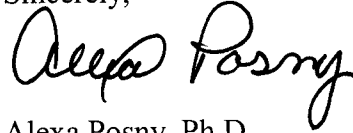
Please note that as part of CNMI's Application for FFY 2006, CNMI has made an assurance, under 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the FFY 2006 grant period. Any changes made by CNMI, to its FFY 2006 Application or its Part 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 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, CNMI is expressly agreeing as a condition of IDEA funding to ensuring that positive efforts are made to employ and advance employment of qualified individuals with disabilities.

Page 3 – Honorable Rita H. Inos

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, flowing style.

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A

Enclosure B

cc: Suzanne Lizama  
Part C Coordinator