



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

JUN 30 2008

Honorable Nidel Lorak  
Minister of Education  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
P.O. Box 3  
Majuro, Marshall Islands MH 96960

Dear Minister Lorak:

This is to inform you that we have conditionally approved the Republic of the Marshall Island's (RMI) application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our conditional approval is based on review of your application submitted by the RMI Ministry of Education to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 13, 2008 and resubmitted on May 23, 2008, including assurances provided in Section II, and incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A. In addition, the State provided specific assurances that it will:

1. Operate consistent with the applicable Part B regulations; and
2. Make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2009. Section II of the State's application identifies the IDEA statutory sections for which the State needs to amend policies and procedures and the timelines by which the State will amend its policies and procedures in order to comply with Part B of the IDEA. Within Section II, the State has included the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with any policies and procedures that are not yet in compliance with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, as amended.

Enclosed is the grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2008 for the Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) program. These funds are for use primarily in school year 2008-2009 and are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2008, your State has made an assurance, in 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding. Any changes made by the State, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of a State's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

The amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2008. Of the \$10,947,511,571 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2008, \$4,091,067,571 is available for awards on July 1, 2008, and \$6,856,444,000 will be available on October 1, 2008.

Page 2 - Chief State School Officer

Under the Section 611 formula, subject to certain maximum and minimum funding requirements, State allocations are based on the amount that each State received from FFY 1999 funds, the general population in the age range for which each State ensures a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, and the number of children living in poverty in the age range for which each State ensures FAPE to all children with disabilities.

Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations.

The enclosed grant award for FFY 2008 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 B.

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 a State 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 in programs assisted under the IDEA.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



William W. Knudsen  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A  
Enclosure B

cc: Director of Special Education