COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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May 19, 2024

Valerie C. Williams
United States Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
Mail Stop 4A10
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Hafa Adai Ms. Williams,

Enclosed, please find an original CNMI Public School System Part C Grant Application for FFY 2024 funds.

The Grant Application packet includes:

1. Original Signature of the Commissioner of Education
2. Submission Statements in Section I.
3. State, Policies, Procedures, Methods and Descriptions, and Assurances, and Certifications in Section II.
4. Descriptions and Use of Funds in Section III.
5. Systems of Payments, Use of Insurance, and Program Income and Restricted Indirect Cost in Section IV and the Indirect Cost Agreement.

The Grant Application is posted on the CNMI PSS website:
https://www.cnmipss.org/early-intervention-program

If you have questions or need any other information regarding the CNMI Part C Grant Application or enclosures, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Robin Palacios, Early Intervention Program Director at (670) 664-4842.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. Camacho Ed. D
Commissioner of Education

enclosures

OMB NO. 1820-0550
Expires: 02/28/2027

ANNUAL STATE APPLICATION UNDER PART C OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AS AMENDED IN 2004 FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2024

CFDA No. 84.181A

ED FORM No. 1 B20—26P

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Washington, DC 20202-2600

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0550. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions; searching existing data sources; gathering and maintaining the data needed; and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit under IDEA Part C (20 U.S.C. 1400, et seq.). If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application or survey, please contact Jennifer Simpson at jennifer.simpson@ed.gov / (202) 245-6348 directly.

SECTION I

A. Submission Statements for Part C of IDEA

Select 1 or 2 below. Check 3 if appropriate.

1. __X__ The State's policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, certifications, and assurances meet all application requirements of Part C of the Act as found in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), codified at 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1443 and the Part C regulations in 34 CFR Part 303. The State is able to provide and/or meet all policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances, found in Sections II.A and II.B of this Application.

   By selecting this submission statement, the State either has on file with the Secretary or has submitted new or revised State policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions that meet all requirements found in Section II.A.

2. _____ The State cannot provide the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and/or assurances for all application requirements of Part C of the Act as found in Part C of the IDEA, 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1443 and the Part C regulations in 34 CFR Part 303. The State has determined that it is unable to provide the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and/or assurances that are checked 'No' in Sections II.A and II.B. However, the State assures that throughout the period of this grant award the State will operate consistently with all requirements of IDEA in 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1443 and the 2011 Part C regulations in 34 CFR Part 303. The State will develop and/or make such changes to existing policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances as are necessary to bring the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances into compliance with the requirements of the IDEA Part C Act and regulations, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2025. The State has included the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances marked 'No'. The items checked 'Yes' in Section II.A are enclosed with this application as revised or new or are identified as "OF" already on file with the Secretary.[1]

Optional:

3. _____ The State is submitting new or modified State policies and procedures previously submitted to the Department and checked in Section II.A, "N", "R" or "OF" cell(s) found in the 'Yes' column. These modifications are a result of: (1) the State revising its applicable State law or regulations; (2) changes required by the Secretary due to new interpretation of the Act or regulations by a federal court or the State's highest court; and/or (3) because of an official finding of noncompliance with Federal law or regulation.

B. Conditional Approval for Current Grant Year

If the State received conditional approval for the current grant year, check the statement(s) below:

1. Conditional Approval Related to Assurances in Section II.A:

_____ a. Sections II.A and II.B reflect completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2023 conditional approval letter (attach any additional documentation required by the FFY 2023 letter).

_____ b. As noted in Sections II.A and II.B, the State has not completed all issues identified in the FFY 2023 conditional approval letter.

2. Conditional Approval Related to Other Issues:

[1] If Option 2 is checked, the State is to provide dates in Sections II.A and II.B as to when the required policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances will be provided, which date can be no later than June 30, 2025.

_____ a. The State previously submitted documentation of completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2023 conditional approval letter.

_____ b. The State is attaching documentation of completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2023 conditional approval letter. *(Attach documentation showing completion of all issues.)*

_____ c. The State has not completed all issues identified in the FFY 2023 conditional approval letter. *(Attach documentation showing completion of any issues and a list of items not yet completed.)*

SECTION II

A. State Policies, Procedures, Methods, and Descriptions

As checked below, the State hereby declares that it has or has not filed the following policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions with the U.S. Department of Education, and, as of the date of the signature below, affirms and incorporates by reference those policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions with respect to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA or Act) in 20 U.S.C. 1431–1443 and the Part C regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 (Part C). By submission of this Section II, the State assures that throughout the period of this FFY 2024 grant award, the State will operate consistently with all requirements of Part C of the IDEA in 20 U.S.C. 1431 through 1443 and the Part C regulations in 34 CFR Part 303. The State will develop and/or make such changes to existing policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances as are necessary to bring the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances into compliance with the requirements of the IDEA Part C Act and regulations by the date indicated below and not later than June 30, 2025.

- Check and enter date(s) as applicable.
- Enclose relevant documents.

Yes (If New or Revised is checked, the State is submitting policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions with this application. If already 'On File with OSEP', check OF.)

N = 'New' Policy and/or Procedure

R = 'Revised' Policy and/or Procedure

OF = Policy and/or Procedure is already 'On File' with the USDE

No (Policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions have not been provided. Provide date by which State will submit to OSEP required documentation, which date shall be no later than June 30, 2025.)

Yes: N	Yes: R	Yes: OF	No	State Policies, Procedures, Methods, and Descriptions
				Subpart C—State Policies and Procedures
		X		1. Each application must include the name of the State lead agency, as designated under §303.120, that will be responsible for the administration of funds provided under this part. (34 CFR §303.201)
		X		2. Each application must include a description of services to be provided under Part C to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families through the State's system. (34 CFR §303.203(a))
				3. Each application must include the State's policies and procedures regarding the identification and coordination of all available resources within the State from Federal, State, local, and private sources as required under subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. *The State must have policies and procedures that meet the requirements listed in 3(a) and the methods identified in 3(b), and must provide responses to those entries. If the State has not adopted a system of payments, it may respond "NA" to 3(a).*

		X		(a) If the State has adopted a system of payments, each application must include any policies or procedures adopted by the State as its system of payments and those policies and procedures must meet the requirements in §§303.510, 303.520 and 303.521 (regarding the use of public insurance or benefits, private insurance, or family costs or fees). (34 CFR §303.203(b)(1)) ***The policies and procedures listed in 3(a) are <u>optional</u>. Enter 'NA' in the cells to the left if the State has elected not to adopt a system of payments (which includes a system to use public insurance or benefits or private insurance or family fees to pay for Part C services); otherwise check the appropriate response under the 'Yes' column and, if checking 'N' or 'R', attach policies and procedures.*** ***The State's response under 3(a) of Section II.A must match the State's response under Section IV.A.***
		X		(b) Each application must include the methods (State law, regulation, signed interagency or intra-agency agreements or other appropriate written method(s) approved by the Secretary) used by the State to implement the payor of last resort and fiscal responsibility requirements in §303.511(b)(2) and (3). (34 CFR §303.203(b)(2)) ***If the State uses signed interagency agreements or "other appropriate written method(s)" to meet the requirements in 3(b), please check 'N' or 'R' and submit with the application. If the State's method is a State statute or regulation, the State does not need to submit that method (the statute or regulation) with its application.***
		X		4. Each application must include the State's rigorous definition of developmental delay as required under §§303.10 and 303.111. Each Statewide system must include the State's rigorous definition of <u>developmental delay</u>, consistent with §§303.10 and 303.203(c), that will be used by the State in carrying out programs under Part C of the Act in order to appropriately identify infants and toddlers with disabilities who are in need of services under Part C of the Act. The definition must— (a) Describe, for each of the areas listed in §303.21(a)(1), the evaluation and assessment procedures, consistent with §303.321, that will be used to measure a child's development; and (b) Specify the level of developmental delay in functioning or other comparable criteria that constitute a developmental delay in one or more of the developmental areas identified in §303.21(a)(1).

				(34 CFR §§303.203(c) & 303.111)
		X		5. If the State provides services under Part C to at-risk infants and toddlers through the statewide system, the application must include— (a) The State's definition of at-risk infants and toddlers with disabilities who are eligible in the State for services under Part C (consistent with §§303.5 and 303.21(b)); and (b) A description of the early intervention services provided under Part C to at-risk infants and toddlers with disabilities who meet the State's definition described in §303.204(a). (34 CFR §303.204). ***The policies and procedures listed in 5 are <u>optional</u> (i.e., they only apply if the State opts to serve at-risk children). Enter 'NA' in the cells to the left if the State has elected not to provide services under Part C to at-risk infants and toddlers; otherwise check the appropriate response under the 'Yes' column and, if checking 'N' or 'R', attach the definition and description.***
				6. Each State application must include a description of the State's use of funds under Part C for the fiscal year or years covered by the application. (34 CFR §303.205) ***The State must complete Section III of this application.***
		X		7. Each application must include the State's policies and procedures that require the referral for early intervention services under Part C of specific children under the age of three, as described in §303.303(b) (which includes children who are the subject of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect, or directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure). (34 CFR §303.206)
		X		8. Each application must include a description of the procedure used by the State to ensure that resources are made available under Part C for all geographic areas within the State. (34 CFR §303.207)
		X		9. Each application must include a description of the policies and procedures used by the State to ensure that, before adopting any new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with Part C of the Act and 34 CFR Part 303, the lead agency— (1) Holds public hearings on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure); (2) Provides notice of the hearings held in

				accordance with §303.208(b)(1) at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable public participation; and (3) Provides an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, EIS providers, and the members of the Council, to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with Part C of the Act and 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.208(b))
		X		10. (a) Application Requirements: Each State must include the following in its application: (1) A description of the policies and procedures it will use to ensure a smooth transition for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the age of three and their families from receiving early intervention services under Part C to preschool or other appropriate services (for toddlers with disabilities) or exiting the program for infants and toddlers with disabilities. (2) A description of how the State will meet each requirement in §303.209(b) through (f). (3) (i) (A) If the lead agency is not the SEA, an interagency agreement between the lead agency and the SEA; or (B) If the lead agency is the SEA, an intra-agency agreement between the program within that agency that administers Part C of the Act and the program within the agency that administers section 619 of the Act (ii) To ensure a seamless transition between services under Part C and under Part B of the Act, an interagency agreement under paragraph (a)(3)(i)(A) of this section or an intra-agency agreement under paragraph (a)(3)(i)(B) of this section must address how the lead agency and the SEA will meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section (including any policies adopted by the lead agency under §303.401(d) and (e)), §303.344(h), and 34 CFR 300.101(b), 300.124, 300.321(f) and 300.323(b). (4) Any policy the lead agency has adopted under §303.401(d) and (e). (b) Notification to the SEA and appropriate LEA. The State must ensure that— (1) Subject to paragraph (b)(4) of this section, not fewer than 90 days before the third birthday of the toddler with a disability if that toddler may be eligible for preschool services under Part B

				of the Act, the lead agency notifies the SEA and the LEA for the area in which the toddler resides that the toddler on his or her third birthday will reach the age of eligibility for services under Part B of the Act, as determined in accordance with State law; or (2) Subject to paragraph (b)(4) of this section, if the lead agency determines that the toddler is eligible for early intervention services under Part C of the Act more than 45 but less than 90 days before that toddler's third birthday and if that toddler may be eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, as soon as possible after determining the child's eligibility, notifies the SEA and the LEA for the area in which the toddler with a disability resides that the toddler on his or her third birthday will reach the age of eligibility for services under Part B of the Act, as determined in accordance with State law; or (3) Subject to paragraph (b)(4) of this section, if a toddler is referred to the lead agency fewer than 45 days before that toddler's third birthday and that toddler may be eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, with parental consent required under §303.414, refers the toddler to the SEA and the LEA for the area in which the toddler resides; but, the lead agency is not required to conduct an evaluation, assessment, or an initial IFSP meeting under these circumstances; (4) The notification required under paragraphs (b)(1), (2), and (3) of this section is consistent with any policy that the State has adopted, under §303.401(e), permitting a parent to object to disclosure of personally identifiable information. (c) Conference to discuss services. The State must ensure that— (1) If a toddler with a disability may be eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, with the approval of the family of the toddler, convenes a conference, among the lead agency, the family, and the LEA not fewer than 90 days—and, at the discretion of all of the parties, not more than 9 months—before the toddler's third birthday to discuss any services the toddler may receive under Part B of the Act. (2) If a toddler with a disability is determined to not be potentially eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, with the approval of the family of that toddler, makes reasonable efforts to convene a conference among the lead agency, the family, and providers of other appropriate

				services for the toddler to discuss appropriate services that the toddler may receive. (d) Transition plan. The State must ensure that for all toddlers with disabilities – (1)(i) It reviews the program options for the toddler with a disability for the period from the toddler's third birthday through the remainder of the school year; and (ii) Each family of a toddler with a disability who is served under Part C is included in the development of the transition plan required under this section and §303.344(h); (2) It establishes a transition plan in the IFSP not fewer than 90 days—and, at the discretion of all of the parties, not more than 9 months—before the toddler's third birthday; and (3) The transition plan in the IFSP includes, consistent with §303.344(h), as appropriate— (i) Steps for the toddler with a disability and his or her family to exit from the Part C program; and (ii) Any transition services that the IFSP Team identifies as needed by that toddler and his or her family. (e) Transition conference and plan meeting requirements. Any conference conducted under paragraph (c) of this section or meeting to develop the transition plan under paragraph (d) of this section (which conference and meeting may be combined into one meeting) must meet the requirements in §§303.342(d) and (e) and 303.343(a). (f) Applicability of transition requirements. (1) The transition requirements in paragraphs (b)(1) and (2), (c)(1), and (d) of this section apply to all toddlers with disabilities receiving services under this part before those toddlers turn age three, including any toddler with a disability under the age of three who is served by a State that offers services under §303.211. (2) In a State that offers services under §303.211, for toddlers with disabilities identified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the parent must be provided at the transition conference conducted under paragraph (c)(1) of this section: (i) An explanation, consistent with §303.211(b)(1)(ii), of the toddler's options to continue to receive early intervention services under this part or preschool services under section 619 of the Act; (ii) The initial annual notice referenced in §303.211(b)(1). (3) For children with disabilities age three and older who receive services pursuant to §303.211, the State must ensure that it satisfies the separate transition requirements in §303.211(b)(6)(ii).

				(34 CFR §303.209)
		X		11. Each application must contain a description of State efforts to promote collaboration among Head Start and Early Head Start programs under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801, et seq., as amended), early education and child care programs, and services under Part C. (34 CFR §303.210)
		X		12. Each application must include, as required by Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), a description of how the State has identified barriers and developed strategies to address the barriers and has provided a description of the steps the State is taking to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, Part C. (34 CFR §303.212(a))
		X		13. (a) General. (1) Subject to paragraphs (a)(2) and (b) of this section, a State may elect to include in its application for a grant under Part C a State policy, developed and implemented jointly by the lead agency and the SEA, under which a parent of a child with a disability who is eligible for preschool services under section 619 of the Act and who previously received early intervention services under Part C, may choose the continuation of early intervention services under Part C for his or her child after the child turns three until the child enters, or is eligible under State law to enter, kindergarten or elementary school. (2) A State that adopts the policy described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section may determine whether it applies to children with disabilities— (i) From age three until the beginning of the school year following the child's third birthday; (ii) From age three until the beginning of the school year following the child's fourth birthday; or (iii) From age three until the beginning of the school year following the child's fifth birthday. (3) However, in no case may a State provide services under this section beyond the age at which the child actually enrolls in, or is eligible under State law to enter, kindergarten or elementary school in the State. (b) Requirements. If a State's application for a grant under Part C includes the State policy described in paragraph (a) of this section, the system must ensure the following: (1) Parents of children with disabilities who are eligible for services under section 619 of the Act and who previously received early intervention services under Part C will be provided annual notice (the initial annual notice must be provided as set forth in §303.209(f)(2)(ii)) that contains—

				(i) A description of the rights of the parents to elect to receive services pursuant to §303.211 or under Part B of the Act; and (ii) An explanation of the differences between services provided pursuant to §303.211 and services provided under Part B of the Act, including— (A) The types of services and the locations at which the services are provided; (B) The procedural safeguards that apply; and (C) Possible costs (including the costs or fees to be charged to families as described in §§303.520 and 303.521), if any, to parents; and (2) Consistent with §303.344(d), services provided pursuant to §303.211 will include an educational component that promotes school readiness and incorporates preliteracy, language, and numeracy skills. (3) The State policy ensures that any child served pursuant to this section has the right, at any time, to receive FAPE (as that term is defined at §303.15) under Part B of the Act instead of early intervention services under Part C of the Act under §303.211. (4) The lead agency must continue to provide all early intervention services identified in the toddler with a disability's IFSP under §303.344 (and consented to by the parent under §303.342(e)) beyond age three until that toddler's initial eligibility determination under Part B of the Act is made under 34 CFR §300.306. This provision does not apply if the LEA has requested parental consent for the initial evaluation under §300.300(a) and the parent has not provided that consent. (5) The lead agency must obtain informed consent from the parent of any child with a disability for the continuation of early intervention services pursuant to this section for that child. Consent must be obtained before the child reaches three years of age, where practicable. (6)(i) For toddlers with disabilities under the age of three in a State that offers services under this section, the lead agency ensures that the transition requirements in §303.209(b)(1) and (2), (c)(1) and (d) are met. (ii) For toddlers with disabilities age three and older in a State that offers services under this section, the lead agency ensures a smooth transition from services under this section to preschool, kindergarten or elementary school by: (A) Providing the SEA and LEA where the child resides, consistent with any State policy adopted under §303.401(e),

				the information listed in §303.401(d)(1) not fewer than 90 days before the child will no longer be eligible under subsection (a)(2) of this section to receive early intervention services under this section; (B) With the approval of the parents of the child, convening a transition conference, among the lead agency, the parents, and the LEA, not fewer than 90 days—and, at the discretion of all parties, not more than 9 months—before the child will no longer be eligible under subsection (a)(2) of this section to receive, or will no longer receive, early intervention services under this section, to discuss any services that the child may receive under Part B of the Act; and (C) Establishing a transition plan in the IFSP not fewer than 90 days—and, at the discretion of all parties, not more than 9 months—before the child will no longer be eligible under subsection (a)(2) of this section to receive, or no longer receives, early intervention services under this section. (7) In States that adopt the option to make services under Part C available to children ages three and older pursuant to §303.211, there will be a referral to the Part C system, dependent upon parental consent, of a child under the age of three who directly experiences a substantiated case of trauma due to exposure to family violence, as defined in section 320 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, 42 U.S.C. 10401, et seq. (c) Reporting requirement. If a State includes in its application a State policy described in §303.211(a), the State must submit to the Secretary, in the State's report under §303.124, the number and percentage of children with disabilities who are eligible for services under section 619 of the Act but whose parents choose for their children to continue to receive early intervention services under §303.211. (d) Available funds. The State policy described in §303.211(a) must describe the funds—including an identification as Federal, State, or local funds—that will be used to ensure that the option described in §303.211(a) is available to eligible children and families who provide the consent described in §303.211(b)(5), including fees, if any, to be charged to families as described in §§303.520 and 303.521. (e) Rules of construction. (1) If a statewide system includes a State policy described in §303.211(a), a State that provides services in accordance with this section to a child with a disability who is eligible for services under section 619 of the Act will not be required to provide the child FAPE under Part B of the Act for the period of time in which the child is

				receiving services under §303.211. (2) Nothing in this section may be construed to require a provider of services under Part C to provide a child served under Part C with FAPE. (34 CFR §303.211) ***The policies and procedures listed in 13 are <u>optional</u>. Enter 'NA' in the cells to the left if the State has elected not to develop and implement a policy under 34 CFR §303.211 to make Part C services to children beyond age three; otherwise check the appropriate response under the 'Yes' column and, if checking 'N' or 'R', attach policies and procedures.***

B. Assurances and Optional Assurance

The State makes the following assurances and provisions as required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (20 U.S.C. 1431 et. seq.; 34 CFR §§303.101-126; 303.220; 303.227)

Yes *(Assurance is hereby provided.)*	No *(Assurance cannot be ensured. Provide date on which State will complete changes in order to provide assurance.)* *Check and enter date(s) as applicable*	Subpart B—Assurances (20 U.S.C. 1434; 1435; and 1437(b); 34 CFR §§303.101-126; 303.220; 303.227)
X		1. The State has adopted a policy that appropriate early intervention services, as defined in 34 CFR §303.13, are available to all infants and toddlers with disabilities in the State and their families, including— (a) Indian infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families residing on a reservation geographically located in the State; (b) Infants and toddlers with disabilities who are homeless children and their families; and (c) Infants and toddlers with disabilities who are wards of the State. (34 CFR §303.101(a))
X		2. The State has in effect a statewide system of early intervention services that meets the requirements of section 635 of the Act, including policies and procedures that address, at a minimum, the components required in 34 CFR §§303.111 through 303.126. (34 CFR §303.101(a))
X		3. The State ensures that any State rules, regulations, policies and procedures relating to 34 CFR Part 303 conform to the purposes and requirements of 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.102)
		4. Each statewide system (system) must include, at a minimum, the components described in §§303.111 through 303.126. (34 CFR §303.110)
X		5. The State has a policy in effect that ensures that appropriate early intervention services are based on scientifically based research, to the extent practicable, and are available to all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, including— (a) Indian infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families residing on a reservation geographically located in the State; and (b) Infants and toddlers with disabilities who are homeless

		children and their families. (34 CFR §303.112)
X		6. (a) The Statewide system ensures the performance of— (1) A timely, comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation of the functioning of each infant or toddler with a disability in the State; and (2) A family-directed identification of the needs of the family of the infant or toddler to assist appropriately in the development of the infant or toddler. (b) The evaluation and family-directed identification required in paragraph (a) of this section must meet the requirements of 34 CFR §303.321. (34 CFR §303.113)
X		7. The Statewide system ensures that, for each infant or toddler with a disability and his or her family in the State, an IFSP, as defined in 34 CFR §303.20, is developed and implemented that meets the requirements of 34 CFR §§303.340 through 303.345 and that includes service coordination services, as defined in 34 CFR §303.34. (34 CFR §303.114)
X		8. The Statewide system includes a comprehensive child find system that meets the requirements in 34 CFR §§303.302 and 303.303. (34 CFR §303.115)
X		9. The Statewide system includes a public awareness program that— (a) Focuses on the early identification of infants and toddlers with disabilities; and (b) Provides information to parents of infants and toddlers through primary referral sources in accordance with 34 CFR §303.301. (34 CFR §303.116)
X		10. The Statewide system includes a central directory that is accessible to the general public (i.e., through the lead agency's Web site and other appropriate means) and includes accurate, up-to-date information about: (a) Public and private early intervention services, resources, and experts available in the State; (b) Professional and other groups (including parent support and training and information centers, such as those funded under the Act) that provide assistance to infants and toddlers with disabilities eligible under Part C of the Act and their families; and (c) Research and demonstration projects being conducted in the State relating to infants and toddlers with disabilities. (34 CFR §303.117)
X		11. The Statewide system includes a comprehensive system of personnel development, including the training of paraprofessionals and the training of primary referral sources with respect to the basic components of early intervention services available in the State. The State's comprehensive system of

		personnel development— (a) Includes— (1) Training personnel to implement innovative strategies and activities for the recruitment and retention of EIS providers; (2) Promoting the preparation of EIS providers who are fully and appropriately qualified to provide early intervention services under Part C; and (3) Training personnel to coordinate transition services for infants and toddlers with disabilities who are transitioning from an early intervention services program under Part C of the Act to a preschool program under section 619 of the Act, Head Start, Early Head Start, an elementary school program under Part B of the Act, or another appropriate program. (b) May include— (1) Training personnel to work in rural and inner-city areas; (2) Training personnel in the emotional and social development of young children; (3) Training personnel to support families in participating fully in the development and implementation of the child's IFSP; and (4) Training personnel who provide services under this part using standards that are consistent with early learning personnel development standards funded under the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care established under the Head Start Act, if applicable. (34 CFR §303.118)
X		12. The Statewide system includes policies and procedures relating to the establishment and maintenance of qualification standards to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of Part C are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained. These policies and procedures provide for the establishment and maintenance of qualification standards that are consistent with any State-approved or State-recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the profession, discipline, or area in which personnel are providing early intervention services. Nothing in Part C of the Act may be construed to prohibit the use of paraprofessionals and assistants who are appropriately trained and supervised in accordance with State law, regulation, or written policy, to assist in the provision of early intervention services under Part C of the Act to infants and toddlers with disabilities. (34 CFR §303.119(a)–(c))
X		13. The Statewide system includes a single line of responsibility in a lead agency designated or established by the Governor that is responsible for the following— (a) (1) The general administration and supervision of programs and activities administered by agencies, institutions, organizations, and EIS providers receiving assistance under Part C of the Act; and (2) The monitoring of programs and activities used by the

		State to carry out Part C of the Act (whether or not the programs or activities are administered by agencies, institutions, organizations, and EIS providers that are receiving assistance under Part C of the Act), to ensure that the State complies with Part C of the Act, including— (i) Monitoring agencies, institutions, organizations, and EIS providers used by the State to carry out Part C of the Act; (ii) Enforcing any obligations imposed on those agencies, institutions, organizations, and EIS providers under Part C of the Act and 34 CFR Part 303; (iii) Providing technical assistance, if necessary, to those agencies, institutions, organizations and EIS providers; (iv) Correcting any noncompliance identified through monitoring as soon as possible and in no case later than one year after the lead agency's identification of the noncompliance; and (v) Conducting the activities in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(iv) of this section, consistent with 34 CFR §§303.700 through 303.707, and any other activities required by the State under those sections. (b) The identification and coordination of all available resources for early intervention services within the State, including those from Federal, State, local, and private sources, consistent with subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. (c) The assignment of financial responsibility in accordance with subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. (d) The development of procedures in accordance with subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303 to ensure that early intervention services are provided to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families under Part C of the Act in a timely manner, pending the resolution of any disputes among public agencies or EIS providers. (e) The resolution of intra- and interagency disputes in accordance with subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. (f) The entry into formal interagency agreements or other written methods of establishing financial responsibility, consistent with 34 CFR §303.511, that define the financial responsibility of each agency for paying for early intervention services (consistent with State law) and procedures for resolving disputes and that include all additional components necessary to ensure meaningful cooperation and coordination as set forth in subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.120)
X		14. The Statewide system includes a policy pertaining to the contracting or making of other arrangements with public or private individuals or agency service providers to provide early intervention services in the State, consistent with the provisions of Part C of the Act and 34 CFR Part 303, including the contents of the application, and the conditions of the contract or other arrangements. The policy — (a) Includes a requirement that all early intervention services must meet State standards and be consistent with the

		provisions of Part C; and (b) Is consistent with the Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR Part 80. (34 CFR §303.121)
X		15. The Statewide system includes procedures for securing the timely reimbursement of funds used under Part C of the Act, in accordance with subpart F of 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.122)
X		16. The Statewide system includes procedural safeguards that meet the requirements of subpart E of 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.123)
X		17. The Statewide system includes a system for compiling and reporting timely and accurate data that meets the requirements of 34 CFR §§303.700 through 303.702 and 303.720 through 303.724 and the following requirements. The data system includes a description of the process that the State uses, or will use, to compile data on infants or toddlers with disabilities receiving early intervention services under Part C, including a description of the State's sampling methods, if sampling is used, for reporting the data required by the Secretary under sections 616 and 618 of the IDEA and 34 CFR §§303.700 through 303.707 and 303.720 through 303.724. (34 CFR §303.124)
X		18. The Statewide system includes a State Interagency Coordinating Council (Council) that meets the requirements of subpart G of 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.125)
X		19. The Statewide system includes policies and procedures to ensure, consistent with 34 CFR §§303.13(a)(8) (early intervention services), 303.26 (natural environments), and 303.344(d)(1)(ii) (content of an IFSP), that early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities are provided— (a) To the maximum extent appropriate, in natural environments; and (b) In settings other than the natural environment that are most appropriate, as determined by the parent and the IFSP Team, only when early intervention services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment. (34 CFR §303.126)
X		20. The Statewide system ensures that Federal funds made available to the State under section 643 of the Act will be expended in accordance with the provisions of 34 CFR Part 303, including §§303.500 and 303.501. (34 CFR §303.221)
X		21. The Statewide system will comply with the requirements in §§303.510 and 303.511 in subpart F of this part. (34 CFR §303.222)
X		22. The Statewide system ensures that— (a) The control of funds provided under 34 CFR Part 303, and

		title to property acquired with those funds, will be in a public agency for the uses and purposes provided in 34 CFR Part 303; and (b) A public agency will administer the funds and property. (34 CFR §303.223)
X		23. The Statewide system ensures that it will— (a) Make reports in the form and containing the information that the Secretary may require; and (b) Keep records and afford access to those records as the Secretary may find necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of 34 CFR Part 303, the correctness and verification of reports, and the proper disbursement of funds provided under 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.224)
X		24. The Statewide system ensures that – (a) Federal funds made available under section 643 of the Act to the State – (1) Will not be commingled with State funds; and (2) Will be used so as to supplement the level of State and local funds expended for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families and in no case to supplant those State and local funds. (b) To meet the requirement in paragraph (a) of this section, the total amount of State and local funds budgeted for expenditures in the current fiscal year for early intervention services for children eligible under this part and their families must be at least equal to the total amount of State and local funds actually expended for early intervention services for these children and their families in the most recent preceding fiscal year for which the information is available. Allowance may be made for— (1) A decrease in the number of infants and toddlers who are eligible to receive early intervention services under this part; and_ (2) Unusually large amounts of funds expended for such long-term purposes as the acquisition of equipment and the construction of facilities. (c) Requirement regarding indirect costs. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, a lead agency under this part may not charge indirect costs to its Part C grant. (2) If approved by the lead agency's cognizant Federal agency or by the Secretary, the lead agency must charge indirect costs through either— (i) A restricted indirect cost rate that meets the requirements in 34 CFR 76.560 through 76.569; or (ii) A cost allocation plan that meets the non-supplanting requirements in paragraph (b) of this section and 34 CFR Part 76 of EDGAR. (3) In charging indirect costs under paragraph (c)(2)(i) and (c)(2)(ii) of this section, the lead agency may not charge rent, occupancy, or space maintenance costs directly to

		the Part C grant, unless those costs are specifically approved in advance by the Secretary. (34 CFR §303.225)
X		25. The Statewide system ensures that fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be adopted as necessary to ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid under 34 CFR Part 303. (34 CFR §303.226)
X		26. The State ensures that policies and practices have been adopted to ensure that— (a) Traditionally underserved groups, including minority, low-income, homeless, and rural families and children with disabilities who are wards of the State, are meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation of all the requirements of Part C; and (b) These families have access to culturally competent services within their local geographical areas. (34 CFR §303.227)
		Assurance Regarding Optional Policy
X		*Enter 'NA' in the cell to the left if this assurance is not applicable to your State.* 27. A State may adopt and has adopted a policy that includes making ongoing good-faith efforts to recruit and hire appropriately and adequately trained personnel to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities, including, in a geographic area of the State where there is a shortage of such personnel, the most qualified individuals available who are making satisfactory progress toward completing applicable course work necessary to meet the standards described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. (34 CFR §303.119(d))

C. Certifications

The State Lead Agency is providing the following certifications:

Yes	
X	1. The State certifies that ED Form 80-0013, *Certification Regarding Lobbying*, is on file with the Secretary of Education. With respect to the *Certification Regarding Lobbying* the State recertifies that no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; that the State shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 CFR Part 82, Appendix B); and that the State Agency shall require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers.
X	2. The State certifies that it has met the certifications in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) at 34 CFR §80.11 relating to State eligibility, authority and approval to submit and carry out the provisions of its State application, and consistency of that application with State law are in place within the State.
X	3. The State certifies that the arrangements to establish financial responsibility for the provision of Part C services among appropriate public agencies under §303.511 and the lead agency's contracts with EIS providers regarding financial responsibility for the provision of Part C services meet the requirements in §§303.500 through 303.521 and are current as of the date of submission of the certification. (34 CFR §303.202)

D. Statement

I certify that the State of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has provided the policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances checked as 'yes' in Sections II.A and II.B and the certifications required in Section II.C of this application. These provisions meet the requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as found in 20 U.S.C. 1431-1443 (as amended) and the 2011 regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 (as amended). The State will operate its IDEA Part C program in accordance with all of the required policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances and certifications.

If any policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, and assurances have been checked 'no', I certify that the State will operate throughout the period of this grant award consistently with the requirements of the IDEA as found in 20 U.S.C. 1431-1443 (as amended) and the 2011 regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 (as amended), and will make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2025. (34 CFR §76.104)

I, the undersigned authorized official of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Public School System,

(Name of State and official name of State agency)

am designated under Part C by the Governor of this State to submit this application for FFY 2024 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Printed/Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative of the State:	
Lawrence F. Camacho, Ed.D Commissioner of Education	
Signature:	Date: 05/19/2024

SECTION III

A. Description of Use of Federal IDEA Part C Funds for Personnel of the State Lead Agency (LA) and the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)[2]

When completing this section include:

- Totals for the number of lead agency and ICC administrative positions, salaries and fringe benefits funded either 100 percent and/or less than 100 percent with Federal IDEA Part C funds;
- A general description of the duties for each position;
- A distinction between lead agency and ICC roles: insert (LA) or (ICC) in the "Description of Duties;" after each position; and
- A subtotal of the amount.

Identify any administrative positions for which less than 100% of the time is spent on Part C and, for each such position, indicate the percentage of time spent on Part C and the total amount of salary and fringe benefits included in the Part C application budget.

Positions Funded	Number of Positions	% of Time Spent on Part C	Salaries & Fringe Benefits	Description of Duties
100% funded with Part C Funds	1	100%	115,572.00	Director (LA): Prepare and timely submit an annual grant application to the US Office of Special Education Programs in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Submit to the Board of Education and the US Office of Special Education Programs State Performance Plans (SPP) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and Annual Performance Reports (APR) in accordance with IDEA performance plan requirements. IDEA 618 Data (Child Count Data) to the US Office of Special Education Programs in accordance with the IDEA data submission requirements. Prepare and submit to the Board of Education and the US Office of Special Education Programs, required new or revised policies and procedures in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Partnership Agreements and Interagency Agreements in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Supervise all Early Intervention personnel and administrative staff assigned to the Early Intervention Program. Direct child find activities on all Islands in a coordinated manner with community partners in accordance with IDEA Child Find regulations. Coordinate the provision of Technical Assistance with OSEP funded TA Centers and other Technical Assistance Providers. Coordinate Professional Development as necessary to ensure Early Intervention staff attain and maintain HQT status. Oversee the recruitment and retention efforts of qualified Early Intervention Personnel. Coordinate and facilitate Interagency Coordinating Council events such as regular scheduled meetings and child find events. Develop and maintain contacts with professional education and related services on children with disabilities.

[2] Federal IDEA Part C funds used to support the SICC must meet the requirements of 34 CFR §303.603.

Positions Funded	Number of Positions	% of Time Spent on Part C	Salaries & Fringe Benefits	Description of Duties
	1	100%	34,843.00	Administrative Assistant (LA) Performs clerical work such as the submission of time cards, payroll checks, and collection of time and attendance records. Assist with travel arrangements. Preparation and submission of purchase orders. Organizes and monitors office materials and supplies
	1	100%	29,643.00	Data Clerk (LA) Collects, tracks, monitors, and analyzes program data. Participates in local and national technical assistance opportunities regarding child, family, and program outcomes.
	1	100%	28,231.00	Family Partnership Advocate (LA) Implementation of family partnership, parent engagement, and community partnerships. Conduct home visits when necessary and assist with the distribution and collection of annual family surveys, the recruitment of children for the program, and the coordination of family engagement activities.
< 100% funded with Part C Funds				
Subtotal of amount under A:			208,289.00	

B. Maintenance and Implementation Activities for the Lead Agency and the ICC

When completing this section include:

- A description of the nature and scope of each major activity to be carried out under Part C in maintaining and implementing the statewide system of early intervention services:
  - Lead Agency Activities could include enhancing the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, implementing child find strategies, or ensuring a timely, comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation for each child;
  - ICC Activities could include coordinating child find identification efforts, ensuring the timely provision and payment of early intervention services to eligible children and their families, advising on early childhood transition, support for the ICC (travel), or other implementation and development activities of the ICC
- The approximate amount of Federal IDEA Part C funds to be spent for each activity; and
- A subtotal of the amount.

Special Note: Prior Approval

Some direct costs require prior approval. These items include using Federal IDEA Part C funds to pay for: (1) equipment; (2) participant support costs (such as training or travel costs); (3) construction or renovation of facilities; and (4) rent, occupancy or space maintenance costs.[3] States may find helpful *OSEP's Guidance for Common Prior Approval Requests under IDEA Parts B and C* issued on January 3, 2023. It provides a summary of the guidance and approval process for the most common prior approval cost categories. The October 2019 *Frequently Asked Questions (2019 FAQs) Prior Approval – OSEP and RSA Formula Grants*[4] details prior approval flexibilities for **equipment and participant support costs** and describes the parameters under which OSEP has provided prior approval for a subset of these costs.

For any activity or expense listed under Section III of this application that is not covered by the 2023 guidance and 2019 FAQs and requires OSEP prior approval, mark an "X" in the chart below and submit supporting documentation.

Approval of the State's FFY 2024 application does not constitute OSEP's approval of these expenses unless specifically referenced. *(Add rows as needed)*

Major Activity/ Expense	Part C Funds to be Spent	Description of Activities/Expenses (include whether it is for the Lead Agency or SICC)	Prior Approval Needed
Implementation of Program	20,000.00	(LA) Office supplies and materials and the necessary maintenance, janitorial services, repair or up keeping of buildings and equipment such as, but not limited to, fax machine, copier machine, shredder, scanner, desk top computer for data system, laptops. Equipment costs will not exceed $5,000.00.	
Commutes to Tinian and Rota	18,000.00	(LA) Travel to Rota and Tinian to provide direct EI services to eligible infants and toddlers, to conduct monitoring activities and to conduct Parent Forums.	

[3] IDEA and the Uniform Guidance require prior approval for the following expenses: (1) equipment (tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the nonfederal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000 (see 2 CFR §200.33)); (2) participant support costs (direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees), in connection with conferences or training projects 2CFR §200.75; (3) construction/renovation (see 2 CFR §200.12(b)); and (4) rent (see 2 CFR §200.465)).

[4] Under the 2019 FAQs, OSERS granted prior approval for participant support costs under IDEA that: (1) are associated with required meetings for the SICC; (2) incurred as part of providing services identified on an IFSP under IDEA; (3) do not exceed $5000 per individual participant per training/conference. In addition, the 2019 FAQs provide prior approval for equipment that is identified on or directly related to the implementation of the IFSP.

Major Activity/ Expense	Part C Funds to be Spent	Description of Activities/Expenses (include whether it is for the Lead Agency or SICC)	Prior Approval Needed
Child Find/ Public Awareness Activities	1,500.00	(LA) To Conduct Child find and Public Awareness activities including but not limited to, updating and printing the Central Directory, the Developmental Checklist, Welcome Baby packages, posters and parent brochures. Hosting informational fairs in partnership with community partners. Costs associated with participation in the Developmental Disabilities Council Public Awareness activities, Autism Month activities, Head Start Health and Wellness Fairs, community Baby Fairs, including materials such as Early Intervention shirts, tote bags, baby rattles, key chains, baby bibs, and magnets, etc.	
Comprehensive System of Professional Development	28,378.00	(LA) To provide ongoing training to service providers and primary referral sources in the components of the early intervention services system in line with the new Part C regulations. Implement effective strategies and activities for the continued recruitment and retention of early intervention service providers. To assist EI providers to maintain HQT status including CEU's and certification requirements in accordance to PSS standards. Train EI and EC Special Education personnel on transitions requirements in line with the new Part C Regulations. To provide ongoing training in early emotional and social development, self-help skills, coaching and mentoring and other evidence based practices needed to address the state identified measurable result. To provide opportunities for EI Providers to participate in regional and national conferences that promote continued professional development such as but not limited to the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Zero to Three, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Early Childhood Outcomes Conference, DaSy Meetings, the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) Learning Collaborative, the Division for Early Childhood (DEC), National Training Institute (NTI), the Pacific Education Conference and the Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Conference. To attend the OSEP Leadership Conference and Data Meeting.	
Technical Assistance	10,000.00	(LA) To access and fund training and travel cost for TA provided by Guam CEDDERS for technical support and assistance to analyze family surveys, to facilitate family forums and ICC meetings as needed, to assist with the preparation of annual performance reports and to assist with data analysis for program improvements activities; such as SSIP, Early Childhood Outcomes, Early Childhood Coaching, and Evidence Based Practices.	
Parent Forums	2,500.00	(LA) To keep parents informed on policies and procedures, procedural safeguards and best practice strategies with regards to early intervention services. To provide the opportunity for parents to participate in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Forums will be conducted at least twice a year or as often as needed	
Subtotal of amount under B:	80,378.00		

C. Direct Services (Funded by Federal IDEA Part C Funds)

When completing this section include:

- A description of any direct early intervention service that the State lead agency expects to provide to eligible children and their families with Federal IDEA Part C funds.
- The approximate amount for each direct service (States must disaggregate by service the approximate amount of Federal IDEA Part C funds expected to be expended for each direct service); and
- A subtotal of the amount.

Special Note: Amounts for Costs Other Than Direct Services

If contracts with EIS providers include amounts for costs other than direct services, the State should:

- report the amount and type of non-service expenses in Section III.B (along with all other maintenance and implementation activities for IDEA Part C incurred by the State lead agency and/or the SICC) **or**
- report the entire amount in Section III.C and insert a footnote in Section III.C to indicate the estimated amounts listed in that section that includes expenses for non-direct services. (Example: State contracts with EIS provider for occupational therapy (OT) services and training. Training amounts would be listed under Section III.B. and OT services under Section III.C or the entire amount would be placed in Section III.C and a footnote would specify that the estimated amount also includes training expenses. (This option may be helpful if the contractual amounts cannot be easily disaggregated.)

(Add rows as needed.)

Description of Each Direct Early Intervention Service	Approximate Amount of Federal IDEA Part C Funds to be Spent on Each Direct Service
Speech Language Pathology[5]	$76,000.00
Special Instruction Services	$127,797.00
Assistive Technology Device	$2,500.00
Summer Services Pay Differential	$14,000.00
Vision Services	$2,180.00
Translation Services	$2,400.00
Subtotal of amount under C:	$224,877.00

[5] Amount reflected includes direct services and other activities provided

D. Activities by Other State Agencies

If State agencies (other than the State lead agency) are to receive a portion of the Federal IDEA Part C funds and that amount is not already identified in Section III.C above, the State must include in this section:

- The name of each State public agency expected to receive funds.
- The approximate amount of funds each State public agency will receive; and
- A summary of the purposes for which the funds will be used.

Provide subtotal of amount. *(Add rows as needed.)*

State Agency Receiving Funds	Amount of Funds	Purpose
Subtotal of amount under D:	-0-	

E. Description of Optional Use of IDEA Part C Funds[6]

In addition to using Federal IDEA Part C funds to maintain and implement the statewide system of early intervention, States may use funds for:

- expanding and improving on services for infants and toddlers and their families that are otherwise available; and
- initiating, expanding, or improving collaborative efforts related to at-risk infants and toddlers in any State that does not provide services for at-risk infants and toddlers. The application must include:
  - The name of the major activity.
  - The approximate amount of funds to be spent; and
  - A description of the activities.

Provide subtotal of amount. *(Add rows as needed.)*

Major Activity	Part C Funds to be Spent	Description of Activities
Subtotal of amount under E:	-0-	

[6] See IDEA section 638.

F. Totals

Enter the subtotal amounts for Sub Sections A-E found in Section III and any indirect costs charged as specified in Section IV.B. The subtotal amounts (Rows 1-6) should total the estimated grant application amount. (A State may apply for less than the full estimated allotted amount.)

Row No.	Section	Amount
Enter the subtotal amounts for Sub Sections A-E found in Section III of this application.		
1.	III.A.	$208,289.00
2.	III.B.	$80,378.00
3.	III.C.	$224,877.00
4.	III.D.	$0
5.	III.E.	$0
Enter any Indirect Costs to be Charged (See Section IV.B of this application.)		
6.	IV.B	$13,168.00
Total (Rows 1-6)		$526,712.00

Will your lead agency use FFY 2024 federal IDEA Part C funds for subgrants? Yes: _____ No: __X__

Section IV

A. System of Payments / Use of Insurance / Program Income

The State

_____ does (check as applicable)

_X___ does not (check as applicable)

have a system of payments for Part C services under 34 CFR §§303.203(b)(1), 303.500(b), 303.520, and 303.521 which may include the use of public benefits or insurance, private insurance or family fees, such as a sliding scale. Any family fees collected are treated as "program income" for purposes of 2 CFR §200.307(e) and 34 CFR §303.520(e) and are not included in the State's determination of State and local expenditures for maintenance of effort and non-supplanting purposes of 20 U.S.C. 1437(b)(5)(B) and 34 CFR §303.225(a) and (b).

Note: If the State has adopted new or has revised its existing policies and procedures regarding its system of payments, it must submit these new and/or revised policies and procedures under Item 3.a in Section II.A above.

B. Restricted Indirect Cost Rate/Cost Allocation Plan Information

Under IDEA's non-supplanting provisions in 20 U.S.C. 1437(b)(5)(B) and Part C regulation in 34 CFR §303.225(c), a lead agency may not charge indirect costs to its Part C grant unless the lead agency charges indirect costs through either— (i) A restricted[7] indirect cost rate that meets the requirements in 34 CFR §§76.560 through 76.569; or (ii) A cost allocation plan that meets the non-supplanting requirements in paragraph (b) of this section and 34 CFR part 76 of EDGAR.

Check the applicable status below (more than one check mark may be necessary) and enclose appropriate documentation for this Federal Fiscal Year.

_____ No indirect costs are charged to the Part C grant. The total amount of the Federal Part C grant is used for allowable direct costs.

_X__ The lead agency is an State educational agency (SEA) and works directly with the U.S. Department of Education's Indirect Cost Unit to ensure that indirect costs are only charged on a restricted basis to the State's IDEA Part C grant. The State has a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement that is approved for the period 10/01/2023 through 09/30/2024. (Please attach a copy of the most recently approved restricted indirect cost rate agreement or cost allocation plan or other applicable indirect cost documentation.)

_____ The lead agency is not an SEA and has a final restricted indirect cost rate that has been approved by the State lead agency' s cognizant Federal agency and is in effect for this FFY (ending on June 30, 2025) The period of approval for the restricted indirect cost rate agreement is _____ through _____. (The State must attach a copy of the approved restricted indirect cost rate agreement.)

_____ The lead agency is not an SEA and has either a provisional or final restricted indirect cost rate that expires or expired on _____ and the State is in the process of negotiating a new restricted indirect cost rate agreement that will be in effect for the period _____ [please attach proposal].[8] The State lead agency will continue to charge or bill the Part C grant using the provisional or previously approved final restricted indirect cost rate until a new rate is

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[7] Charging indirect costs on a "restricted" basis is a key part of implementing the IDEA Part C requirement in IDEA section 637(b)(5)(B), which requires that federal funds be used to supplement (and not supplant) "State and local funds expended for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The restricted indirect cost rate formula is described at 34 CFR §§75.564 and 76.565. The formula limits the general administrative costs that can be included in the indirect cost pool (numerator) and requires adjustments to the modified total direct cost (MTDC) base (denominator).

[8] A "provisional" indirect cost rate is a temporary rate established for a future prospective period of time to permit budgeting, obligations, and payment of funds by awarding agencies until such time as the actual indirect costs can be determined and a final rate is established for the applicable period; provisional rates are subject to adjustment by issuance of a "final" rate based on actual indirect costs incurred for the period (usually the organization's fiscal year).

negotiated and approved by the State's cognizant Federal agency, at which point the State lead agency must make appropriate adjustments for applicable FFYs. The State acknowledges that a final restricted indirect cost rate may result in an adjustment of the final audited expenditures allowable to be charged to the Part C grant and the Department's approval of this FFY Part C application with an expired or provisional restricted indirect cost rate does not constitute approval of that rate as the final rate for the lead agency for this FFY. When a final restricted indirect cost rate is approved, the lead agency must submit to OSEP: (1) a copy of the "final" restricted indirect cost rate agreement; and (2) details of adjustments made to past GAPS draw downs in light of the "final" rate. (The State must attach a copy of the previously approved restricted indirect cost rate agreement.)

_____ The lead agency is not an SEA and has a final cost allocation plan that has been approved by the State lead agency's cognizant Federal agency, which is _____. The cost allocation plan charges costs only on a restricted basis and has also been approved by ED's Indirect Cost Unit. It is in effect until _____ [insert date or note until amended] for this Federal fiscal year (FFY) (ending on June 30, 2025). (The State must attach a copy of the approved cost allocation plan and approval documentation from both the lead agency's cognizant Federal agency and ED's Indirect Cost Unit.)

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

State and Local Governments
Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement

EIN: 66-0446193

Date: 04/16/2024

Organization:

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Public School System
PO Box 501370
Saipan, MP 96950

Report Number: 2024-0518

Filing Ref.:
Last Negotiation Agreement
dated: 10/10/2023

The indirect cost rate contained herein is for use on grants, contracts, and other agreements with the Federal Government to which 2 CFR Part 200 applies subject to the limitations in Section II.A. of this agreement. The rate was negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, and the subject organization in accordance with the authority contained in applicable regulations.

Section I: Rate

Start Date	End Date	Rate Type	Rate Details				
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2019	09/30/2020	Fixed Carryforward	Restricted Indirect	2.50 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2020	09/30/2021	Provisional	Restricted Indirect	4.20 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2021	09/30/2022	Provisional	Restricted Indirect	3.80 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2022	09/30/2023	Fixed Carryforward	Restricted Indirect	2.50 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2023	09/30/2024	Fixed Carryforward	Indirect	2.41 %	(B)	All	Unrestricted Programs 2/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2023	09/30/2024	Provisional	Restricted Indirect	2.50 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/
			Name	**Rate**	**Base**	**Location**	**Applicable To**
10/01/2024	09/30/2025	Provisional	Restricted Indirect	2.50 %	(A)	All	Restricted Programs 1/

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Section I: Rate (continued)

Note: The restricted rates were reviewed and approved by the US DOE who will provide administrative support and technical assistance in case of an appeal of other disagreement regarding restricted rates.

1/ Applicable to all Federal Programs which require the use of a restricted rate as defined by 34 CFR 75.563 and CFR 76.563.

2/ Applicable to all programs except as noted in 1/.

(A) Base: Total direct costs, less equipment, capital expenditures, participant support, passthrough funds, and the portion of each subaward (subcontract or subgrant) above $25,000 (each award, each year).

(B) Base: Total direct costs, less capital expenditures, food costs, the portion of subawards/subcontracts/subgrants in excess of the first $25,000, and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, or subawards, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.

Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as indirect costs.

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Section II: General

A. **Limitations:** Use of the rate(s) contained in this agreement is subject to any applicable statutory limitations. Acceptance of the rate(s) agreed to herein is predicated upon these conditions: (1) no costs other than those incurred by the subject organization were included in its indirect cost rate proposal, (2) all such costs are the legal obligations of the grantee/contractor, (3) similar types of costs have been accorded consistent treatment, and (4) the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs (for example, supplies can be charged directly to a program or activity as long as these costs are not part of the supply costs included in the indirect cost pool for central administration).

B. **Audit:** All costs (direct and indirect, federal and non-federal) are subject to audit. Adjustments to amounts resulting from audit of the cost allocation plan or indirect cost rate proposal upon which the negotiation of this agreement was based will be compensated for in a subsequent negotiation.

C. **Changes:** The rate(s) contained in this agreement are based on the accounting system in effect at the time the proposal was submitted. Changes in the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from use of the rate(s) in this agreement may require the prior approval of the cognizant agency. Failure to obtain such approval may result in subsequent audit disallowance.

D. **Rate Type:**

1. Fixed Carryforward Rate: The fixed carryforward rate is based on an estimate of the costs that will be incurred during the period for which the rate applies. When the actual costs for such period have been determined, an adjustment will be made to the rate for a future period, if necessary, to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and the actual costs.

2. Provisional/Final Rate: Within six (6) months after year end, a final indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted based on actual costs. Billings and charges to contracts and grants must be adjusted if the final rate varies from the provisional rate. If the final rate is greater than the provisional rate and there are no funds available to cover the additional indirect costs, the organization may not recover all indirect costs. Conversely, if the final rate is less than the provisional rate, the organization will be required to pay back the difference to the funding agency.

3. Predetermined Rate: A predetermined rate is an indirect cost rate applicable to a specified current or future period, usually the organization's fiscal year. The rate is based on an estimate of the costs to be incurred during the period. A predetermined rate is not subject to adjustment.

E. **Rate Extension:** Only final and predetermined rates may be eligible for consideration of rate extensions. Requests for rate extensions of a current rate will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If an extension is granted, the non-Federal entity may not request a rate review until the extension period ends. In the last year of a rate extension period, the non-Federal entity must submit a new rate proposal for the next fiscal period.

F. **Agency Notification:** Copies of this document may be provided to other federal offices as a means of notifying them of the agreement contained herein.

G. **Record Keeping:** Organizations must maintain accounting records that demonstrate that each type of cost has been treated consistently either as a direct cost or an indirect cost. Records pertaining to the costs of program administration, such as salaries, travel, and related costs, should be kept on an annual basis.

H. **Reimbursement Ceilings:** Grantee/contractor program agreements providing for ceilings on indirect cost rates or reimbursement amounts are subject to the ceilings stipulated in the contract or grant agreements. If the ceiling rate is higher than the negotiated rate in Section I of this agreement, the negotiated rate will be used to determine the maximum allowable indirect cost.

I. **Use of Other Rates:** If any federal programs are reimbursing indirect costs to this grantee/contractor by a measure other than the approved rate(s) in this agreement, the grantee/contractor should credit such costs to the

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affected programs, and the approved rate(s) should be used to identify the maximum amount of indirect cost allocable to these programs.

J. **Central Service Costs:** If the proposed central service cost allocation plan for the same period has not been approved by that time, the indirect cost proposal may be prepared including an amount for central services that is based on the latest federally-approved central service cost allocation plan. The difference between these central service amounts and the amounts ultimately approved will be compensated for by an adjustment in a subsequent period.

K. **Other:**

1. The purpose of an indirect cost rate is to facilitate the allocation and billing of indirect costs. Approval of the indirect cost rate does not mean that an organization can recover more than the actual costs of a particular program or activity.

2. Programs received or initiated by the organization subsequent to the negotiation of this agreement are subject to the approved indirect cost rate(s) if the programs receive administrative support from the indirect cost pool. It should be noted that this could result in an adjustment to a future rate.

3. Indirect cost proposals must be developed (and, when required, submitted) within six (6) months after the close of the governmental unit's fiscal year, unless an exception is approved by the cognizant agency for indirect costs

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Section III: Acceptance

Listed below are the signatures of acceptance for this agreement:

By the State and Local Governments	By the Cognizant Federal Government Agency
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Public School System	US Department of the Interior
DocuSigned by: D4F027B054674A0...	DocuSigned by: Craig Wills B47DB1F4A5DB4BF...
Signature	Signature
Jacqueline Che	Craig Wills
Name:	Name:
	Division Chief Indirect Cost & Contract Audit Division
Federal Programs Officer	Interior Business Center
Title:	Title:
4/21/2024	4/19/2024
Date	Date

Unrestricted Rate Negotiated by: Marilyn Elgar
Telephone: (916) 930-3834
Email: cresencia-marilyn_p_elgar@ibc.doi.gov

Restricted Rate Negotiated by: Catherine Hull
Telephone: (202) 453-6355

Next Proposal Due Date: 03/31/2024