



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

July 1, 2017

Honorable Cynthia Deleon Guerrero  
Commissioner of Education  
CNMI Public School System  
Post Office Box 501370 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Commissioner Guerrero:

We have approved the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 funds, under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). Our approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by the CNMI Public School System (CNMI PSS) to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on April 12, 2017.

Our approval of the CNMI's FFY 2017 IDEA Part C grant includes approval of policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, and certifications identified in Section II.A, II.B, and II.C, which is incorporated by reference to this grant award letter as Enclosure A. Our approval is also based on the CNMI's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2017 application that the CNMI's provisions meet the requirements of IDEA Part C as found in 20 U.S.C. §§1431 through 1443 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, and that the CNMI will operate its Part C program in accordance with all of the IDEA Part C requirements including required policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances and certifications. See 34 CFR §76.104.

The CNMI's FFY 2017 IDEA Part C grant is also subject to Special Conditions identified in the Department's June 21, 2017 letter to the CNMI, which is Enclosure B to this grant letter and which is hereby expressly incorporated into the terms of the CNMI's FFY 2017 IDEA Part C grant. These Special Conditions are being imposed pursuant to the Department's authority in 2 CFR §200.207. By accepting the enclosed grant award, the CNMI expressly agrees to comply with the Special Conditions identified in Enclosure B, which conditions are imposed to ensure continued fiscal accountability of Department grant funds awarded to the CNMI, including the IDEA Part C FFY 2017 grant funds awarded by the Department to the CNMI PSS.

Enclosed is the CNMI's FFY 2017 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, P.L. 115-31, for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by IDEA grant recipients from July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Under IDEA section 605, 2 CFR Part 200, and 34 CFR §303.104, the State must obtain prior approval to charge the following expenses as direct costs: (1) equipment (2 CFR §200.33 and 34 CFR §303.104); (2) participant support costs (2 CFR §200.75); (3) construction/renovation (2 CFR §200.12(b) and 34 CFR §303.104); and (4) rent (2 CFR §200.465 and 34 CFR §303.225(d)). OSEP's approval of the FFY 2017 IDEA Part C grant application does not

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constitute approval for any costs that fall into these categories that are listed in Section III of the grant application. For any direct costs the State proposes under these categories in Section III of its FFY 2017 IDEA Part C grant application, OSEP will review and respond after July 1, 2017 through a separate approval process.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that “[a] State shall not be immune under the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 in programs assisted under the IDEA. Therefore, by accepting this grant, the CNMI 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 in programs assisted under the IDEA.

The enclosed grant award of FFY 2017 funds 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 may be necessary to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to IDEA Part C.

If the CNMI revises those IDEA Part C policies or procedures that are required under Part C of the IDEA or the regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, the CNMI must subject those policies and procedures to the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §303.208 and receive OSEP approval for those policies and procedures referenced in 34 CFR §303.101(c) prior to their implementation.

As a reminder, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds, must report subaward information as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. First-tier subaward information must be reported by the end of the following month from when the award was made or obligated. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your Fiscal Accountability Facilitator if you have further questions.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,



Ruth E. Ryder  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

Enclosure A

Enclosure B

cc: Part C Coordinator



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 21, 2017

Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System  
Capitol Hill Bldg #1211  
PO BOX 501370  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Commissioner Deleon Guerrero:

Attached are the special conditions for grant awards made by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System (CNMI PSS) for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017. These special conditions apply to all grants awarded by the Department to CNMI PSS on or after the date of these special conditions. These special conditions also apply to grant funds previously awarded by the Department to CNMI PSS that are still available for obligation or liquidation as of the date of these special conditions.

Under the FFY 2015 special conditions, CNMI PSS was required to develop, implement, and report on a corrective action plan (CAP) whose measures were to assist it in correcting certain deficiencies that the Department had identified in CNMI PSS' management and administration of Department grant funds. Based on the outcome of the Risk Management Service onsite visit in November 2015, the results of the single audits, and documentation of progress received from CNMI PSS in the CAP reports required by the FFY 2015 special conditions, the FFY 2016 special conditions were modified. Under the FFY 2016 special conditions, CNMI PSS was not required to maintain and report on a CAP, but it was required to submit a biannual report providing updates on its administration of Department grant funds, with an emphasis on areas of repeat audit findings. Under the FFY 2017 special conditions, the Department is continuing to require CNMI PSS to submit a biannual report providing updates on its administration of Department grant funds, with an emphasis on areas of repeat audit findings. However, should appropriate corrective actions cease or fiscal or program accountability problems recur in the future, the Department reserves the right to take appropriate actions, which include: designating CNMI PSS a "high-risk" grantee under the authority of 2 CFR §§ 200.207 and 3474.10 and imposing additional special conditions on CNMI's grant awards.

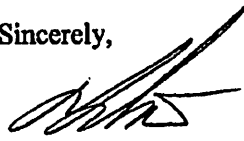
We are pleased with the progress that CNMI PSS continues to make to improve its programmatic and fiscal accountability for Department grant awards and are hopeful that CNMI PSS will sustain its progress.

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If you have any questions or require further assistance, have your staff contact Christine Jackson, the primary contact for the Risk Management Service within the Office of the Deputy Secretary, at (202) 245-8276 or via e-mail at christine.jackson@ed.gov.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the delivery of Federal education services to the children in the CNMI.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Maestri  
Director  
Risk Management Service  
Office of the Deputy Secretary

cc: Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres  
loy S. Inos  
Marylou Ada, Chairperson, Board of Education

Enclosure