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August 26, 2009

## ***CDE Recovery Act Alert #11***

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**TO:** Superintendents, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors

**FROM:** Nina Lopez, Director of ARRA

**DATE:** August 26, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Update on Review and Approval of Title IA ARRA and IDEA ARRA Applications

This Alert provides answers to some frequently asked questions concerning the review of pending federal consolidated grant and IDEA applications. This year, each of Title IA and IDEA have required the submission of two applications, one for regular allocation funds and a second separate application for additional funds allocated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As a result, the administrative burden to both local school districts as well as to CDE has been increased at least twofold. This additional burden has substantially delayed the time by which such review is complete. Following is a summary of our review process as well as implications of this delay.

### **When are ARRA Title IA and IDEA applications being reviewed?**

All applications are reviewed as they are received, and a determination is provided to the applicant as soon as the review is complete.

Assuming completed applications are in hand, review of all federal consolidated grant applications is expected to be completed no later than August 31, 2009.

Assuming completed applications are in hand, review of all IDEA ARRA grant applications is expected to be completed no later than September 9, 2009.

### **What is the status of my Title IA ARRA Application?**

To date, 120 NCBL Consolidated Applications have been reviewed and a finding of substantial approval or final approval has been granted, another 8 applications have been received but are incomplete, and 10 remain to be reviewed as of the date of this Alert. The substantial approval date (and thus the date by which districts can bill from) is that date when CDE receives all components of an application that meet the basic requirements. If CDE is missing, for example, an appropriate ARRA budget, then the substantial approval date will be the date when this is received.

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**What is the status of my IDEA ARRA Application?**

To date, the IDEA applications of 28 Administrative Units (AU's) have been completed. An additional 33 applications are pending review, in some cases the application process is delayed either because the application has been amended or is incomplete.

**When can I access my ARRA funds under IDEA or Title IA?**

All administrative units and state operated programs submitted IDEA plan narratives by July 1, 2009. As a result, CDE's approval of an application will allow the use of funds back to July 1. An AU can amend its narrative or budget as needed throughout the period of the grant.

CDE will reimburse AU's, LEA's and state operated programs monthly pursuant to approved applications, based on the submission of a Request for Funds form that documents expenditures.

We thank you for your patience during what has been an unprecedented effort for all of us!

*If you have any questions about a particular IDEA application, please contact Charm Paulmeno at [Paulmeno\\_c@CDE.state.co.us](mailto:Paulmeno_c@CDE.state.co.us). For questions related to your Title IA funds, please contact Trish Boland at [Boland\\_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Boland_T@cde.state.co.us). For general questions related to ARRA, please contact Nina Lopez at [Lopez\\_N@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Lopez_N@cde.state.co.us).*