



OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
REGION I

JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING,  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

April 4, 1975

Ms. Martha Ziegler  
Director  
Federation for Children  
with Special Needs  
11 Walnut Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts

Dear Martha:

Although we are not yet ready to commit ourselves to the funding of regional information and referral centers on a long-term basis, we are hoping to receive an increase in the Recruitment and Information appropriation for that purpose. In anticipation of that appropriation, we would like to try to work out a way to fund your proposal for the short term as a pilot for: assessing needs; developing scopes of work that could make the longer projects accountable; determining the relationships that regional centers should have to the National Information Center for the Handicapped; and since even in thinking of the long term, we do not anticipate funding projects for more than three years, establishing some bases for centers to survive when Federal support has ended.

In this context, we would consider funding your proposal for \$24,641 for a period of six months to develop and begin to implement a systematic method for focusing the resources of the National Center through your member organizations to do information and referral with follow-up. The National Center would provide you with general technical assistance, information materials, and suggestions on how to relate to other public and private agencies doing similar work. You would provide the National Center with feedback on the value of its materials and suggestions for new materials, and attempt to determine those consumer needs which can be met most efficiently on a national level, those which might be met by a combination of national and state efforts, and those which can only be met on state and local levels.

We estimate that it would cost about ten million dollars to maintain comprehensive information and referral centers nationwide on the local level. And we see no chance of ever getting anything in the range of that appropriation. We would like you, therefore, to think of the project realistically as a model that could be utilized nationwide to solve the most immediate problems of handicapped children with limited resources, and not as an ideal for solving all of the information and referral needs of parents in your particular state.

If you are willing to undertake the project on the terms I have described, we need to meet as soon as possible to develop a more limited scope of work, with measurable outcomes. Once you have undertaken the project, we will consider further funding for a period of nine months, at which time we would develop an advertising campaign to publicize your existence. But this would depend upon whether we seemed to be getting the kind of information we needed. After that, you would be eligible to operate a three-year project for us, if we get our appropriation, but you would have to bid competitively on our request for proposals.

Best Regards,

*Harvey*

Harvey W. Liebergott  
Director  
Recruitment and Information Program  
Bureau of Education  
for the Handicapped