



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Ms. B.J. Walker, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Human Resources
Two Peachtree Street, NW Suite 29.250
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

Dear Ms. Walker:

This letter is in regard to Georgia's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and my decision to disallow **\$4,264,784** as a result of Georgia's failure to successfully complete all the requirements of its approved PIP.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), in collaboration with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), conducted a CFSR of the State's child and family services programs during the week of July 16, 2001 to evaluate the seven outcomes and seven systemic factors enumerated in 45 CFR 1355.34. The review demonstrated that the State's child welfare program was not operating in substantial conformity with applicable Federal requirements in all seven outcome areas and three of the seven systemic factors. On October 10, 2001, ACF issued a final report of these findings to DFCS.

Pursuant to 45 CFR 1355.35, the State was required to develop a Program Improvement Plan addressing the items within each outcome measure and systemic factor that were determined not to be in substantial conformity during the review. DFCS developed its PIP and submitted it to ACF on January 30, 2002. After negotiations with Regional Office staff on several issues, the plan was resubmitted on June 26, 2002 and July 31, 2002. The final version was submitted on September 12, 2002. The PIP, with some revisions, was approved by ACF on October 1, 2002. For each item included in the Plan, several action steps were developed by DFCS, which, if successfully completed, would assist the State in achieving the applicable outcome or systemic factor. In addition, for each action step included in the PIP, Georgia set a benchmark by which progress could be measured and a date by which the benchmark would be reached.

The State had two years, until September 30, 2004, to implement the improvements it outlined in the Program Improvement Plan, and an additional year, until September 30, 2005, to demonstrate to ACF that it had successfully achieved all the goals included in its Plan. To complete its PIP, DFCS had to achieve the percentage goals it had set for improvements in the outcomes and items and accomplish the benchmarks it had set for each action step it included in the Plan.

