



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

MAY 11 2009

Jerry Friedman  
Executive Director  
American Public Human Services Association  
1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036

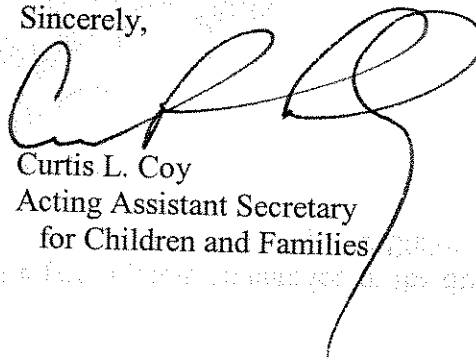
Dear Mr. Friedman:

Thank you for your letter informing us of your concerns regarding the Guardianship Assistance Program available to States under title IV-E of the Social Security Act (Act). In your letter, you requested that the Administration for Children and Families rescind the Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-08-007 issued on December 24, 2008, and allow States to claim current eligible cases retroactive to October 7, 2008. We are carefully considering your request, and are reviewing Federal statutory and regulatory requirements in light of the information you provided. We will inform you of our findings upon completion of our review.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration regarding implementation of the title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program and remain committed to ensuring that States are able to participate in the new program.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions. I also will provide this response to Raymond C. Scheppach, Executive Director of the National Governors Association; William T. Pound, Executive Director of the National Conference of State Legislatures; and Larry Naake, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties.

Sincerely,



Curtis L. Coy  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Children and Families