

State of Missouri
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, economic recovery and resilience is critical to Missouri and its citizens in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, the first positive case of COVID-19 was identified in Missouri. On March 13, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency for all counties throughout the state of Missouri in response to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak; and

WHEREAS, over 410,000 Missourians applied for unemployment assistance between March 2020 and March 2021, 49,000 Missourians lost their job in the leisure and hospitality industry, and over 163,000 businesses in the United States shuttered their doors; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's Office of Workforce Development initiated an aggressive and proactive approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effect on the state's economy. The Return Strong initiative launched in spring 2020 with two charges: help Missourians skill up and get back to work and reopen the state's public workforce system safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, the Return Strong initiative has operated for one year and has served 2,297 Missourians in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act training programs, 23,374 Missourians in basic job center services, pivoted from in-person job fairs to virtual job fairs to serve 5,199 job seekers and 1,092 employers; and

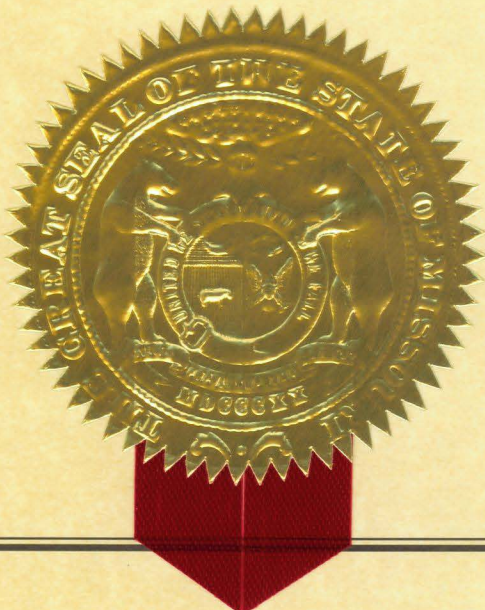
WHEREAS, public workforce system staff responded to 554,415 calls and emails assisting Missourians with information from unemployment insurance inquiries to employment services, worked extended hours to connect and provide access to more Missourians, modified job centers to accommodate social distancing and safety precautions, and conducting outreach calls; and

WHEREAS, we commit ourselves to continuing recovery efforts to set the state back on a path where every county can have a vibrant, resilient economy; where every community and every family has the tools needed to be economically secure.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 2021, to be

RETURN STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 1st day of April, 2021.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE