

State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, August, 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the Missouri First Steps Early Intervention Program in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education; and

WHEREAS, early identification and family engagement are both critical for optimal development of young children; and

WHEREAS, First Steps provides family-centered services to over 15,000 infants and toddlers, age birth to 36 months, with premature newborn conditions, developmental disabilities and delays; and

WHEREAS, the First Steps System Point of Entry in 10 regions ensures Missouri's eligible children receive services designed to improve family capacity to enhance their child's development and learning, and to increase the child's participation in family and community life; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among state agencies, physicians, service providers, local education agencies, and families of children with disabilities help to ensure the availability, quality and effectiveness of early intervention; and

WHEREAS, over 98 percent of families served by First Steps reported that the program positively impacted their ability to help their child learn new skills; and

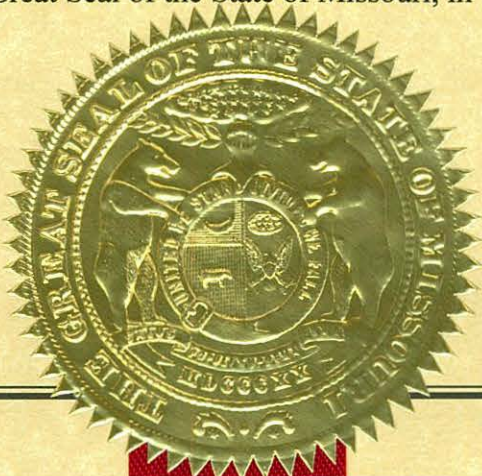
WHEREAS, the Governor appointed the State Inter-agency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers to advise and assist the Missouri First Steps program in its responsibilities to ensure the statewide network of programs serving this population is coordinated and comprehensive; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's 25th anniversary of First Steps will provide an opportunity to increase awareness among Missourians about the importance of early intervention for infants and toddlers with newborn conditions, developmental disabilities and delays;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby recognize the 25th anniversary of the

FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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 10th day of June, 2019.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE