

**STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 7-2024**

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE MONTANA FAMILY SUPPORT  
SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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**WHEREAS**, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, P.L. 108-446 (amending the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA), is the main federal program authorizing state and local aid for special education and related services for children with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, Part C of IDEA authorizes grants to states to develop and maintain early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, to be eligible for participation in the state grant program for infants and toddlers the Governor must appoint an interagency coordinating council, consistent with the requirements of the federal law, to advise and assist the state's "lead agency" and the state's educational agency regarding issues of early intervention and family support in Montana;

**WHEREAS**, the Developmental Services Division of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (Department) has been designated the "lead agency" for early intervention and family support services provided for under Part C of IDEA; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1992, the Montana Family Support Services Advisory Council (Council), has served as Montana's interagency coordinating council to advise the Developmental Services Division regarding the State of Montana's intent to continue to implement a statewide, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, coordinated program of early intervention and family support services for children, from birth to age five, with disabilities and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE**, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, including § 2-15-122, MCA, do hereby authorize the continuance of the Montana Family Support Services Advisory Council, as follows:

**PURPOSE**

The Council shall carry out all duties assigned pursuant to P.L. 108-446, Section 641 and amendments thereto:

- Advise and assist the Department of Public Health and Human Services in the performance of the responsibilities set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

- Advise the Department of Public Health and Human Services in the preparation of applications;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction regarding the transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool and other appropriate services; and
- Submit to the Governor and the U.S. Secretary of Education the status of early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in the state.

## COMPOSITION

The Council shall consist of not more than 20 members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The names and addresses shall be submitted via separate letter to the Montana Secretary of State. The Council is attached to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for administrative purposes.

## COMPENSATION

Council members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated in an amount to be determined by the Department head, not to exceed \$50 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

## DURATION

The Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this Order unless otherwise rescinded or extended by subsequent executive order.

This Order is effective retroactively to April 1, 2024.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 22 day of May, 2024.

  
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GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:

  
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CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State