

Sample Letter: Executive Director to Governor Kehoe

- Please use this sample as a starting point; try to personalize the message, so that his office does not receive multiples of the same exact message.
- If snail-mailing, use your organization's letterhead.
- Alternatively, you can use Gov. Kehoe's [contact page](#) to send digitally.

The Honorable Mike Kehoe
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Kehoe,

On behalf of **[Organization Name]** and the **[number]** Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities we serve each year, thank you for signing the FY2027 budget and preserving funding for Self-Directed Services and Day Services.

This was not a small decision. Your proposed budget included cuts to these programs, and it would have been easy to let those cuts stand. Instead, you listened to families, self-advocates, and providers across Missouri, and you chose to fund the services that keep people with IDD safe, engaged, and connected to their communities.

At **[Organization Name]**, that funding means the individuals we support continue to have a place to build job skills, volunteer, and spend their days with purpose. It means our Direct Support Professionals, the critical healthcare workers who are too often overlooked and underpaid, can keep doing the extraordinary work of helping people with disabilities flourish.

Missourians with IDD, their families, and the providers who serve them will remember this decision. Thank you for making your final budget decision on this the right one for people with disabilities. We hope we can count on your continued support as budget conversations begin again next session.

Thank you,

[Name]

[Job Title & Organization Name]

[City/Cities and/or County/Counties], Missouri



Sample Letters: Self-Advocates & Families

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- If snail-mailing, feel free to include a photo to help put a face with your name.
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*Mailing Address: The Honorable Mike Kehoe
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102*

From a Self-Advocate

Dear Governor Kehoe,

Thank you for signing the budget and keeping funding for services for Missourians with disabilities. Day Services give me a place to go, people to see, and goals I'm working toward.

I volunteer, build new skills, and spend time with friends because these services exist. Thank you for making sure I don't lose them.

Sincerely,
[Name], [City, Missouri]

From a Family Member

Dear Governor Kehoe,

Thank you for signing the budget and funding Day Services for another year. My loved one depends on these services every day.

Without them, our family would be on our own to figure out the support and community inclusion we count on. Because of your budget decision, my family gets to keep the support that lets us work, rest, and stay on engaged, while we know our loved one is building life skills, making connections, and thriving.

Thank you for supporting families like ours.

With Gratitude,
[Name], [City, Missouri]



Social Media Tips

Messaging

- Sample caption: "Thank you, Governor Kehoe, for signing the budget and funding services for Missourians with IDD for another year."
- Tag the Governor's office, for example [@govkehoe](#) on Instagram.
- Make sure you are following your state senator(s) and state representative(s), and tag them as well to say thank you for supporting this funding during session. A joint thank you (Gov. Kehoe + state legislators) reinforces that this was a group effort!
- Use language that clearly describes these services: **"building skills," "community inclusion," "connection," "volunteering," "friendships," "independence,"** and **"working toward goals"** – to name a few!

Photos

- Action shots! We want to see participants volunteering, engaged in an activity, running a community errand, at a farmers market, checking out a library, or spending time with friends/neighbors.
- Interaction to show inclusion! Show a person with a disability interacting with a nondisabled peer, like a cashier, coworker, or volunteer partner!
- Skill-building in progress! We like to see someone you support working toward their goals. Using tools, technology, art supplies, or job equipment.
- Try to show the variety of person-centered services! Rotate between indoor and outdoor community outings, social and recreational activities, the diversity of staff and participants.
- Always confirm photo release and consent is on file before posting, per your organization's policy. Starling has a media release form you can use if needed; contact Austin at austin@starlingmissouri.org for the file.

Timing

- Start posting soon, while the signing is fresh and before next session's budget conversations start.
- Spread posts out over the next month rather than one big burst, so the thank you message has staying power.