



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Missouri WIC Funding Continues During Uncertainty Surrounding Government Shutdown

LIBERTY, Mo. – February 7, 2019 – The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, remains in operation in Missouri. Missouri WIC has received funding to support normal program operations through at least March 31, 2019. The Clay County Public Health Center WIC program will continue to hold appointments with participants and provide the same level of services and benefits. In addition, the WIC state agency has notified local agencies and retailers that the program will allow all benefits issued to participants to be redeemed for the months printed on the WIC checks. Some participants are on tri-monthly benefit issuance; therefore, during the month of March, benefits will be issued to some participants for April, May and June.

The partial government shutdown and lack of an approved federal budget for the USDA has interrupted the normal flow of funding and information from USDA to WIC state agencies. The WIC state agency is participating in regular calls with USDA to remain apprised of developments at the federal level. USDA has been issuing funding needs surveys and is working diligently with individual state agencies to avoid interruptions to WIC benefits and services.

The state agency plans to issue a programmatic update by February 28, 2019 regarding funding and further continuation of WIC program operations.

Pregnant women, new mothers and families with children from birth through their fifth birthday can learn more about qualifying and enrolling in the Missouri WIC program by visiting the Missouri WIC website at wic.mo.gov or by calling 1-800-TEL-LINK (1-800-835-5465).

WIC is an equal opportunity provider, with services provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population-based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit www.clayhealth.com.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.