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The Taney County Health Department will receive \$371,568 in funding for 2017 from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, WIC and Nutrition Services, for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Funding supports and provides for the delivery of WIC services for pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children in Taney County.

“In 2016, the Health Department provided WIC services to approximately 1,927 participants each month”, says Tammy Drake, TCHD WIC Division Manager. “Those services include nutrition education, breastfeeding support, assistance to purchase healthy foods, and referrals for other health and social services, if needed, at no cost to the participant.” Participants must meet income guidelines, and have a nutritional risk factor to qualify for WIC services.

WIC’s supplemental food package encourages healthy choices including foods that are low in fat, sugar, salt and cholesterol and high in fiber. WIC participants may receive fortified milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, cereal, whole wheat bread or pasta, tortillas or brown rice, fruits and vegetables, and beans or peanut butter. Some cultural food choices are also offered. WIC recommends breastfeeding for all infants, although supplemental formula may be included if needed.

A Mom-to-Mom breastfeeding support group meets every other month at the Branson location, and a breastfeeding basics class is offered twice a month at both the Branson and Forsyth locations. “The Mom-to-Mom support group is a great way to meet other moms and learn from their experiences,” says Wendy Faulkner, TCHD Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. The Mom-to-Mom group and class are open to the community. “Any woman interested in breastfeeding is encouraged to participate,” added Faulkner.

WIC services are provided, by appointment, at the Taney County Health Department Branson and Forsyth locations, and at the Jordan Valley Community Health Center in Hollister. For more information about WIC or breastfeeding support programs, please call the Taney County Health Department – Branson (417) 334-4544, Forsyth (417) 546-4725 or visit the website www.taneycohealth.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people, living in a safe environment. Every day, we work to make this vision a reality by leading, educating and coordinating services, and doing so with excellence, professionalism and compassion. Please visit our website www.taneycohealth.org to learn more about our services.

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