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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taney County Health Department Renews Annual WIC Contract for 2024
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The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is pleased to announce the annual contract for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Supplemental Nutrition Food Program has been renewed for 2024. WIC provides services to eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding and/or postpartum mothers, infants, and children up to five years of age. Foster parents, single fathers, and grandparents are also encouraged to utilize WIC services.

The WIC Program is a public health nutrition program that helps to improve the health and nutrition of infants, children, and women throughout Taney County by offering healthy foods and encouraging healthy eating habits. Women who participate in WIC during pregnancy have healthier pregnancies and improved birth outcomes. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, referrals for other health and social services, and supplemental foods, at no cost to the participant. WIC supplemental foods may include milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, cereal, whole grains (pasta, rice, tortillas) beans, peanut butter, and fruits and vegetables. The increased fruit and vegetable dollar amount has been approved for 2024. This benefit increase provides \$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and non-breastfeeding women, and \$52 for exclusively breastfeeding mothers each month to purchase fresh and/or frozen fruits and vegetables.

Taney County Health Department WIC program provides services to an average of 1,400 participants each month. Participants must meet certain guidelines and nutritional criteria to be eligible for WIC services. A family of four, with a gross weekly income of \$1,068 or annual income of \$55,500 or less, would qualify. Taney County WIC provides services at both the Branson and Forsyth location, as well as mobile locations. New in 2023, WIC was able to begin offering services from TCHD's mobile unit. "This mobile option has given WIC the opportunity to take WIC services to families in the community", states Tammy Drake, WIC Program Manager.

For more information about WIC services, breastfeeding support programs, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Taney County Health Department – Branson 417-334-4544 ext. 592 or Forsyth 417-546-4725 ext. 592, visit our website www.taneycohealth.org, or like us on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.

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As a leader in health, the Taney County Health Department serves Taney County residents and visitors in their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle and environment. The Taney County Health Department's mission is to create a healthy and safe community for people to live, work, and play, today and in the future. Caring, serving, and protecting Taney County since 1961. Please visit our website www.taneycohealth.org to learn more about our services.

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1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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