

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLORADO WIC OFFICES OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER

DENVER, CO -The Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) continues to carefully monitor the program's funding situation in light of the federal government shutdown and has determined that local WIC clinics may remain operational through the end of October. Unless the federal government resumes operations or some other remedy is in place, the Colorado WIC program is not likely to be able to serve participants in November.

"We are considering our options," said Patricia Daniluk, Nutrition Services Branch Director for the Prevention Services Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "This federal shutdown is unprecedented and there currently are many unknowns. We are, first and foremost, doing our best to meet the nutritional needs of the more than 95,000 women and children WIC serves."

The State office is monitoring the financial situation on a day-to-day basis to determine the best course of action. As new information is shared from the federal level, course corrections may be made.

The funds to support operation during October come from savings from the previous fiscal year and a small amount of contingency funds provided this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Local WIC clinics should continue normal operations until further notice. WIC participants are encouraged to keep their WIC appointments and continue redeeming their checks for the month of October.

Information and updates are being posted to the WIC Alerts page on the www.ColoradoWIC.com website. Local WIC agencies, retailers and participants are encouraged to watch this site for the most current information.

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The Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program for pregnant women; breastfeeding women (up to one year postpartum); non-breastfeeding, postpartum women (up to six months postpartum); infants; and children birth to five years old. WIC provides nutrition education, including: breastfeeding support, nutritious foods to supplement a person's routine diet, screening and referrals. WIC is part of the Prevention Services Division of the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). WIC participants must meet certain financial requirement.