

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is committed to improving the health disparities of all women, infants, and children in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a premier public health program that has improved health outcomes across the Commonwealth by providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and referrals to health and social services; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate this fiftieth anniversary, we remember Allegheny County Health Department opened the first WIC clinic in Pennsylvania and issued the first WIC voucher on May 28, 1974, and recognize the successful continuation of uninterrupted program services across the Commonwealth provided by twenty-two local agencies; and

WHEREAS, the state program ranks eighth in participation across the nation and serves approximately 182,000 women, infants, and children under age five each month at over 230 clinic locations and a total of 1,235 retail stores currently providing WIC-approved nutritious foods throughout the sixty-seven counties; and

WHEREAS, over five decades, the WIC Program has benefited significantly from the many health professionals, organizations, community leaders, and dedicated WIC staff whose efforts and support have contributed to the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, in addition to offering nutrition education and healthy foods to enable families to make lifelong healthy eating and lifestyle choices, the WIC Program addresses other areas of maternal and child health, including educating participants about the dangers of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use; reinforcing the importance of childhood immunizations and screening for lead poisoning; and promoting optimum infant feeding.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN MONTH

and encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the impact WIC has made in the lives of many families, as well as the dedication of WIC staff and community partners who share our mission of service and prevention to make a difference in the lives of families in the Commonwealth.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this thirtieth day of April two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro