



News Release

For immediate release

Date: April 16, 2020

WIC Continues to Help Area Families

BILLINGS, MT – During the COVID-19 pandemic, WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, is doing its part to make sure that Montana children and families don't go hungry.

During the pandemic, pregnant women, new mothers and those caring for young children, may now qualify for WIC services if they have temporarily lost their jobs or their earnings meet WIC income guidelines.

Statewide, WIC offices are currently closed for in-person appointments, but families who need WIC services can call their local WIC office. WIC staff will quickly screen for eligibility and if eligible, schedule a phone appointment to complete certification for WIC benefits. Benefits continue to be issued for those currently enrolled in WIC. Montana WIC has made it easier to enroll for services during the pandemic, and has offered more flexibility in WIC food choices when shopping at the grocery store.

WIC participants receive an EBT card that they can use to buy cereal, juice, milk, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, whole grain items including whole wheat pasta, dry or canned beans, yogurt, fruits and vegetables, baby food, infant cereal, and formula.

In addition to providing benefits for healthy foods, WIC provides breastfeeding support, nutrition information and referrals to healthcare and other community resources.

WIC is available to pregnant women, new moms for up to six months after delivery, breastfeeding moms for up to one year after delivery, infants and children under the age of five. WIC income eligibility guidelines through June 30, 2020 are:

Household size	Household Income
1	\$23,107
2	\$31,284
3	\$39,461
4	\$47,638
5	\$55,815

Each additional family member add: \$8,177

In addition to enrolling new participants, RiverStone Health WIC staff are helping applicants and clients with a range of questions on nutrition and health. A lactation consultant and a breastfeeding peer counselor are reaching out to pregnant and breastfeeding moms. Breastfeeding classes are happening via Zoom.

Clients who are without a phone or computer access are asked to reach out to WIC however they can, so that staff can continue to provide services.

RiverStone Health WIC provides WIC services in Yellowstone, Carbon, Musselshell and Stillwater counties. Call RiverStone Health WIC at 406.247.3370 or email wic@riverstonehealth.org.

###