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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Health Department Renews WIC Contract for 2013**

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is pleased to announce the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services has renewed the contract for continuation of Women, Infants & Children (WIC) services for fiscal year 2013. The contract was renewed in late 2012 and the department is required to send an annual public notification during the first quarter of the contract.

Through this contract, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will be able to serve 7,910 people eligible for WIC every month.

WIC's mission is to safeguard the health of women, infants and children who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to enhance diets, information on healthy eating and referrals to health care and other community resources. WIC services are provided to eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding and/or post-partum mothers, as well as infants and children up to the age of five. The income eligibility threshold is 185 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of three, that equates to an annual household income of about \$35,300. For a family of four, the threshold is \$42,600.

"We are here to make a difference in the lives of young families and ensure that infants, toddlers and breastfeeding moms have vital access to healthy foods and know how to prepare those foods," said WIC Program Coordinator Mary Ellison.

The Springfield-Greene County WIC program's main office is located at 440 E. Tampa St. in Springfield, inside the Jordan Valley Health Center building. Hours are by appointment. WIC also has a satellite location in Republic, as well as satellite locations on certain days each month at four area churches.

For more information about the WIC program, locations, and hours or to find out if you qualify, call (417) 851-1581 or visit: <http://health.springfieldmo.gov/wic>.

Media inquiries: Contact Mary Ellison, WIC Program Coordinator, at (417) 851-1586; or Mike Brothers, Public Health Information Administrator, (417) 874-1205.