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News Release

For Immediate Release

WIC contract renewed, new satellite location now open

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 2014. The department is required to send an annual public notification following renewal of the contract.

Through this contract, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will be able to serve about 7,600 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 postpartum 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 \$36,131. For a family of four, the threshold is \$43,568.

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 and one Springfield Public Schools early learning center.

The newest satellite location opened just last month at the health department's Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic Ave. The Westside clinic is typically the main clinic for the health department's immunizations efforts. But on the fourth Monday of each month it will now become a WIC location, serving as many as 20 families by appointment each day it is open. WIC served 15,724 participants at satellite locations in the last fiscal year.

"Moving around the city makes reaching out to young families that much easier," said Mary Ellison, WIC Coordinator. "It's not always reasonable to expect folks to come to a single centralized clinic location."

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.