
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



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WIC Program is in Operation

UPDATE: October 17, 2013 - The federal government shutdown has ended, and funding for WIC in Michigan is expected to remain stable through the next budget deadline: January 15, 2014.

October 2, 2013 - GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Some federal offices and programs are immediately feeling the brunt of the government shutdown. While federal spending has been cut for USDA programs, the Kent County Health Department would like to assure clients of the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) that **the funding is in place in Michigan until further notice.**

The Michigan Department of Community Health has stated that by using 2013 'spend forward funding' and reallocation funds from USDA, WIC should be able to sustain both administrative and food costs for four or five weeks. "We are receiving many calls from mothers who are confused and concerned about program cuts," said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "We are still accepting appointments with clients and potential clients. Vendors are still able to accept WIC EBT (Bridge) cards for client purchases until further notice."

"While it is unclear at this time how long this shutdown will remain in effect, or what will happen after four weeks, Kent County Health Department remains committed to keeping our clients updated on this situation," London added.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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