



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) MONTH
May 2019**

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has been effective in improving nutrition-related health and birth outcomes for women, infants, and children throughout the commonwealth for the past 45 years; and

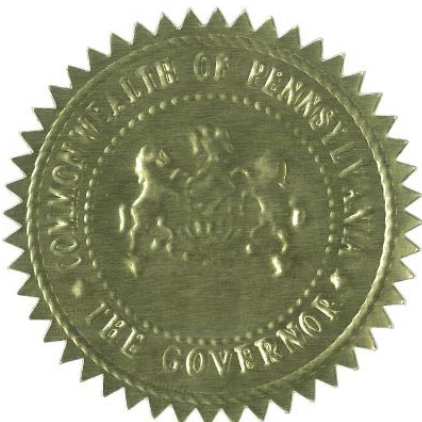
WHEREAS, to commemorate this 45th anniversary, we remember that Allegheny County Health Department opened the first WIC clinic officially in Pennsylvania and issued the first WIC voucher on May 28, 1974; but announce this 45th anniversary year as the implementation of the Electronic Benefits Transfer (eWIC) card for families to use their WIC food benefits; and

WHEREAS, the state program ranks fifth in participation across the nation and serves more than 205,000 women, infants and children under age five each month at 248 locations throughout the 67 counties; 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 is deeply involved in addressing 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 breastfeeding as the optimum choice for infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, over the course of more than four decades, the WIC Program has greatly benefited from the many health professionals, organizations, and community leaders whose efforts and support have contributed to the success of the program. The American Academy of Pediatrics has acknowledged WIC as a key nutritional support program during the early years of a child's life.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in recognition of services and resources WIC has provided to families for 45 years, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) MONTH. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the profound difference 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, this eighth day of April two thousand nineteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-third.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor