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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Taney County Health Department Renews Annual WIC Contract
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The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is pleased to announce the annual contract for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Supplemental Nutrition Food Program has been renewed for 2022. WIC provides services to eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding and/or post-partum mothers, infants and children up to the age of five. Foster parents, single dads, and grandparents are also encouraged to utilize WIC services.

The WIC Program saves lives through improved health and nutrition of infants, children, and mothers throughout Taney County by offering healthy foods and encouraging healthy eating habits. Women who participate in WIC during pregnancy have healthier pregnancies and improved birth outcomes. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, referrals for other health and social services and supplemental foods, at no cost to the participant. WIC supplemental foods may include milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, cereal, whole grains (pasta, rice, tortillas), beans, peanut butter, and fruits and vegetables.

Taney County Health Department WIC program serves an average of 1,350 participants each month. Participants must meet certain income and nutritional criteria to be eligible for WIC services. A family of four, with a gross weekly income of \$943 or annual income of \$49,025 or less, would qualify. “WIC is here to assist and support families by providing nutritious foods and to encourage healthy eating and lifestyle choices”, states Tammy Drake, WIC Division Manager.

For more information about WIC services, breastfeeding support programs, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Taney County Health Department – Branson 417-334-4544 ext. 592 or Forsyth 417-546-4725 ext. 321, visit our website www.taneycohealth.org, or like us on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.