

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress established the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program, popularly known as the WIC Program, 40 years ago; Allegheny County not only served as one of the test sites for the WIC national demonstration project, but also issued the first WIC voucher in Pennsylvania in May 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the WIC Program is administered by the Allegheny County Health Department and promotes healthy child growth and development through nutrition education and by providing free nutritious foods to income-eligible and medically and nutritionally at-risk families; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that WIC encourages early prenatal care, improves weight gain during pregnancy, increases birth weight, decreases premature delivery, increases breastfeeding, reduces iron deficiency anemia in children, and enhances physical growth and development; and

**WHEREAS**, WIC is not just for low-income families on public assistance, but also has income limits which are high enough to make many working families, struggling to get by on a modest income, eligible for benefits; one out of every two WIC families in Allegheny County is employed and receives no public assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, WIC has had an enormous impact in Allegheny County over the years and has provided food benefits worth about \$320 million to an estimated 818,000 residents since the program's inception 40 years ago.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WIC Program and commend the Allegheny County Health Department for contributing to the improved health of our citizenry.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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