

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPHSS Confirms Continuation of WIC During Federal Government Shutdown

Hagåtña, Guam — The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) confirms that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) remains fully operational despite the ongoing federal government shutdown. All WIC clinics will continue to provide food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referral services to eligible families across the island.

DPHSS also expresses appreciation to the Leon Guerrero – Tenorio Administration for stepping in earlier this month to identify local funds to sustain benefits when federal funds were unavailable. "Their swift action ensured that no family went without support during the initial phase of the shutdown, and their readiness to step in again if needed demonstrates their continued commitment to Guam's mothers and children." – Theresa C. Arriola, Director

WIC clients, are reminded that their October food benefits remain redeemable at all authorized WIC vendors. Clients are encouraged to download and use the EzWIC App for real time updates on their benefits. To download the free EzWIC App, go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store on your mobile device and search for "EzWIC". The app allows participants to check their balance, view available items, and receive important alerts and announcements directly from the WIC clinic, available anywhere and anytime.

DPHSS appreciates the patience of WIC clients and community partners and remains focused on consistent access to nutritious foods and essential services for mothers, infants, and young children.

For additional information or questions regarding WIC benefits, please contact the DPHSS WIC Program at (671) 475-0300 or email <u>michael.gallo@dphss.guam.gov</u>.

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