



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama's WIC Program reaches out to storm victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As a result of devastating tornadoes that recently struck the state, women, infants and children who were not previously eligible for WIC may now meet income guidelines to qualify due to the loss of businesses and employment.

WIC, also known as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, serves women who are pregnant, breast-feeding, or had a baby in the past six months; infants; and children to age 5. WIC provides nutrition support in the form of food instruments that may be cashed at authorized grocery stores for specific food items such as milk, cheese, whole grain breads and cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables, infant foods, and infant formula if mothers are not breast-feeding. In addition, WIC provides nutrition information, breast-feeding support and supplies including breast pumps, and referrals to other health services.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires women, infants and children to meet income guidelines in order to qualify for WIC benefits. WIC is ready to assist individuals who meet the guidelines for participation in the program.

WIC requires proof of identification, residency in Alabama, and income when applying for benefits. USDA is allowing exceptions to the requirements for providing this documentation if the information was lost due to the storms.

The Alabama WIC Program has offices in all county health departments. Call your local health department or the toll-free number 1-888-WIC-HOPE (1-888-942-4673) for more information or to make an appointment.

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