

For Immediate Release March 19, 2020

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"WIC Families are receiving benefits during COVID-19 crisis"

Los Angeles County, CA. March 19, 2020. In the midst of this public health crisis, it is important that families stay informed with accurate information about WIC services and resources. In accordance with recent guidance regarding mass gatherings and social distancing, WIC wishes to protect the health and wellbeing of our participants, our staff and our communities. *In Los Angeles County, many WIC offices are not providing face-to-face services at the WIC centers and are providing remote services to families through active outreach by phone, text and email. WIC is also responding to those who contact us via phone and text. Please be assured that WIC is able to upload food benefits for families already participating in the program, and is actively engaged in enrolling new participants remotely.*

People who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 crisis and are pregnant, postpartum or have a child under five years old can apply for WIC services by texting APPLY to 91997, calling WIC at 888-942-2229, or visiting www.phfewic.org/apply.

About PHFE WIC: WIC is the USDA-funded Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. PHFE WIC, a program of Heluna Health, is the largest local agency WIC Program in the nation, serving approximately 160,000 participants each month in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. Currently, over 60% of all infants born in LA County receive WIC services. Visit us online at <u>www.phfewic.org</u>.

About Heluna Health: Heluna Health is a national leader in providing program and support services to optimize population health. The agency offers a full range of program development, personnel, financial and grant management support to researchers, consortia, government agencies and nonprofits. Visit <u>www.helunahealth.org</u>.

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