



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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(10/27/25) Update Regarding the Government Shutdown and Its Impact on Head Start and WIC from Southern 7 Health Department

Southern 7 Health Department is well aware of the concerns brought to families served through Head Start and WIC as a result of the recent government shutdown and continues to monitor the situation daily. We want to assure everyone that despite delays in the federal budget passing, services will continue as usual until we learn otherwise.

Earlier this month, we reported that WIC would be open and operational in Illinois with resources available through October. That deadline has been extended through November, 2025.

Regarding Head Start, we are expecting funds to continue through the end of this year. We have no planned program changes at this time.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time, and encourage you to contact our office at 618-634-2297 should you have any questions.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities of the seven southernmost counties in Illinois focusing on disease prevention, promoting healthy lifestyles, ensuring access to healthcare services, and serves as the Head Start Grantee for the region.

WIC is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides federal grants to states to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. WIC is available at each Southern 7 Public Health Clinic.

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