

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

<u>FUNDING</u>: This is Federal discretionary funding received annually from the State. Subject to available appropriations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) allocates Federal WIC dollars to States for costs incurred by State and local agencies for nutrition services and administrative costs for the federal fiscal year. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: The WIC Program is a federally funded and regulated program that provides supplemental food vouchers, nutrition education, and referral services to eligible pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five. WIC helps pregnant women, new mothers and young children eat well and stay healthy.

WIC saves lives and improves the health of nutritionally at-risk women, infants and children. Since its beginning in 1974, the WIC Program has proven to be one of the most successful Federallyfunded nutrition programs in the United States. Collective findings of studies, reviews and reports demonstrate that the WIC Program is cost effective in protecting and improving the health/nutritional status of low-income women, infants and children.

The goal of the WIC program is to decrease the risk of poor birth outcomes and to improve the health of participants during critical times of growth and development. To meet this goal, WIC

provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, healthcare and other referrals and specific foods that provide key nutrients needed by pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, infants and children.

It is recommended the Board approve this Agreement to support the County's WIC program which serves an ongoing caseload of approximately 1,400 clients.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Jill Blake, MPA, Director of Public Health