



## MDHHS UPDATE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

January 24, 2019– Michigan residents still can apply for and receive Medicaid and public assistance benefits such as food and cash assistance; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); State Emergency Relief and child care reimbursement despite the partial federal government shutdown. The state has determined there will be no impact to the availability of benefits through these programs in February even if the shutdown continues. There has been no official determination made on March benefits.

“Programs that feed Michigan residents are a primary concern of the State of Michigan, and we have heard misinformation being spread about the immediate impact of the shutdown. We want people to know that MDHHS is prepared to continue to provide this assistance and that funding remains in place through the end of February,” said Terrence Beurer, deputy director of Field Operations Administration for MDHHS.

District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is the local WIC agency for its ten-county service region. DHD#10 encourages individuals to keep using WIC services, as usual. WIC clinics will continue to operate, and WIC approved stores will continue to accept and redeem WIC EBT card benefits.

Federal or State employees who have experienced a temporary decrease in earnings, including being furloughed or having pay deferred due to the partial Federal government shutdown, or who have been laid off or had their employment terminated may be eligible to receive WIC services.

Below are updates on the status of various federally funded programs administered by MDHHS:

**Food Assistance Program:** MDHHS issued February food assistance payments early beginning on Jan. 17. The federal government asked states to issue the assistance early to ensure that February funding would be available to be issued. Recipients do not need to redeem their benefits in January, and MDHHS is urging them to budget their food assistance benefits so they can meet their food needs through the entire month of February.

**WIC:** Benefits, which include nutritious food for pregnant, postpartum women, breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5, are funded for the month of February and are being distributed according to the normal schedule.

**Medical assistance, including Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan:** Programs are funded through Sept. 30, 2019, the end of the current fiscal year.

**Cash assistance:** Funding is in place for January and February.

**State Emergency Relief:** Funding for energy-related services such as heating assistance is in place to provide benefits through Sept. 30, 2019. Funding for non-energy-related services – such as home repairs and burials – is in place for January and February.

**Child Development and Care (child care assistance):** Funding is in place through the end of April.

Clients who use Bridge Cards to redeem their food and cash assistance and WIC benefits are still able to do so in January and February.



### MEDIA CONTACT

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### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)

If you or someone you know has questions about WIC, please visit <http://www.dhd10.org/parents-families/wic-2/> to call your local WIC office. If you are outside of the DHD#10 service region and need contact information for a WIC agency, please visit [www.michigan.gov/wic](http://www.michigan.gov/wic).

Anyone who has questions about all programs above other than WIC can find contact information for their local MDHHS office by going to [www.michigan.gov/contactmdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/contactmdhhs).

### **About DHD #10**

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit [www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org).

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