

### Primary Contact

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## Big Changes Coming to WIC!

### WIC Clinics closed October 27-November 1

We wanted to let you know that starting November 4, 2019, Benton-Franklin Health District, as well as other WIC agencies in our region, will replace paper checks with WIC Cards. We will be closed from October 28 through November 1 as we replace our client management system. Staff will have limited phone access, but Breastfeeding Peer Counselors and resources will be available. Please contact the local food bank for food and formula.

WIC will reopen on November 4, ready to see WIC participants for appointments, including helping them set up and learn how to use their WIC Cards. The cards will provide participants with a more flexible, convenient way to shop. There are many benefits to the new cards:

- WIC participants will be able to scan their card at the grocery store checkout to purchase WIC foods, which should reduce stress and save time at checkout.
- All family benefits will now be available on one card—so families no longer have to keep track of separate checks for each family member.
- Families can also shop throughout the month, rather than having to purchase all their food in one trip. Any foods they don't purchase will be available on their next trip until the end of their benefit period.

While we expect the cards to be a big improvement for families, participants will likely find areas for improvement when using the card. Let us know if you have any questions.



### We're re-imagining WIC!

We're closed while we get ready for something new. When we reopen, we'll have a new computer system and you'll get a WIC Card to shop for WIC foods.

**WIC is closed October 28 - November 1**

**We'll re-open November 4 at 9:00 am**

While we're closed we'll check messages and return calls when possible.

You're important to us. If you have an immediate need for formula or foods please contact the local food bank. They're aware of this need during the week WIC is closed.

For breastfeeding support please contact the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor line: 509-440-3608

**Thanks so much, Your WIC Staff**