



Community Action Program of Lancaster County

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For Immediate Release: January 10, 2012

Lancaster WIC Office Receives Funding Boost

(Lancaster, PA) - The Pennsylvania Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program recently received a breastfeeding performance bonus award from the United States Department of Agriculture. As a result, the Lancaster County WIC program will receive an additional \$82,000 in its 2012 budget to assist the program in building on its successes with the breastfeeding initiative. The state selected the Lancaster WIC program as one of three offices in the state to receive an increase due to its success in encouraging mothers to breastfeed and clients' continued interest in breastfeeding support and education. The Lancaster program boasts one of the highest breastfeeding rates in the state with 68% of WIC mothers initially choosing to breastfeed.

Sharon Wasneuski, Lancaster County WIC director, says the award is an important boost to the program. "Our goal is to reduce the use of formula while increasing breastfeeding rates to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and infants. We have really maxed out our staff resources with the number of participants we have in the program today. The additional funding will allow us to add staff, including a nutritionist and 2-4 peer-counselors, which should in turn take the breastfeeding rates even higher," said Wasneuski.

The nutritionist position will develop a peer-counseling program for breastfeeding mothers, increase outreach activities with community health providers and enhance the breastfeeding services currently provided. In addition, the increased funding will allow for the development of a "state of the art" breastfeeding room and the equipment to support it at the WIC office at 601 South Queen Street.

WIC is a program of the Community Action Program (CAP) of Lancaster County, providing direct financial assistance in the form of food vouchers and nutrition education to low income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women and their children under age five who have a nutritional risk. The program currently assists approximately 10,000 women, infants and children.

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Community leaders formed CAP of Lancaster County in 1966 to assist low and moderate-income individuals with the resources, skills, and knowledge needed to become self-sufficient. CAP of Lancaster County offers 32 programs and employs 300 people who provide services to approximately 35,000 qualified individuals throughout Lancaster County.