



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

March 16, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Maggie Hall, Public Information Director
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**Pinellas County Health Department's WIC Open House
Marks National Nutrition Month**

March is **National Nutrition Month** and, in recognition, the Pinellas County Health Department is offering a banquet of informative sessions **Wednesday, March 17**.

The Women, Infants & Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program will host an open house and educational program from 10 a.m. to noon at its St. Petersburg location, 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.

At 10 a.m., Ken Murphy, food bank director of the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, will discuss the county's nutritional needs and, at 11 a.m., dietitian Sarah Kreiger, RD, LD/N will discuss childhood obesity. Ms. Kreiger will share her experiences with the Fit4Kids program at All Children's Hospital.

WIC is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered in Florida by the Department of Health. Services provided by the Pinellas WIC Program include:

- WIC checks for healthy foods
- Nutrition education and counseling
- Breast pumps / breastfeeding support and lactation consultation
- Referrals for health care

Pinellas WIC provides services to more than 20,000 participants each month. Each applicant must meet all federal eligibility requirements. Checks issued are redeemable at participating local vendors. At the three largest Pinellas WIC locations (St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, and Clearwater health departments centers), the new Check Express system reduces the client's wait time. Additionally, four community satellites are located in Clearwater, Safety Harbor, High Point, and South St. Petersburg.

For information on who can qualify for WIC in Pinellas County, call (727) 824-6914 weekdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

(more)



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Participation in WIC saves public and private health care dollars by improving the health and nutrition of women, infants, and children. WIC has been proven to improve the diets of pregnant and postpartum women and children. It's also been shown to reduce the incidence of low birth weight, infant mortality and anemia among participants.