

# NATIONAL WIC BREASTFEEDING WEEK

August 1–7, 2024

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** human milk provides unique nutritional and non-nutritional benefits for an infant’s growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease; and protects mothers’ and infants’ health; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture commits to advancing nutrition security through improving diet quality, strengthening the public health impacts of the Federal nutrition assistance programs, and advancing racial equity; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating State health departments, Territories, and Tribal organizations celebrate 50 years of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) improving pregnancy outcomes and health and developmental outcomes of children; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture promotes and supports breastfeeding as the best source of infant nutrition and empowers WIC participants to meet their individual breastfeeding goals by providing tailored, evidence-based WIC food packages and WIC Breastfeeding Support resources; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture celebrates the success of WIC Peer Counseling Programs and recognizes the local agencies receiving the WIC Breastfeeding Support Award of Excellence for their exemplary breastfeeding activities; and

**WHEREAS** WIC joins professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week on August 1–7 of each year to collaboratively raise awareness of the numerous benefits of breastfeeding; to strengthen individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding; to further equitable strategies that promote breastfeeding practices; and to support increased breastfeeding rates; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in appreciation of breastfeeding individuals and of all the dedicated volunteers, professionals, communities, and organizations supporting their efforts, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim August 1–7, 2024, as **National WIC Breastfeeding Week**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of June 2024, the two-hundred forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.



THOMAS J. VILSACK

*Secretary*