

From: Mayer, Doug
To: Pitts, Ted <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>
Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 10/3/2013 4:37:34 PM
Subject: FW: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control announced today that it would maintain the Women, Infant, and Children program through October 31. Just yesterday, the department announced it would keep the program working until October 15.

-----Original Message-----

From: Catherine Templeton [mailto:templecb@dhec.sc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 4:37 PM
To: Mayer, Doug
Subject: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control announced today that it would maintain the Women, Infant, and Children program through October 31. Just yesterday, the department announced it would keep the program working until October 15.

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control announced today that it would maintain the Women, Infant, and Children program through October 31. Just yesterday, the department announced it would keep the program working until October 15.

Today marks the end of the first week of the federal government shutdown. With no clear picture of when the shutdown may be resolved, DHEC has developed a contingency plan to provide for one of the state's most vulnerable populations through the end of this month.

To make sure that the 122,000 low-income families that we serve through WIC continue receiving essential nutritional services during the federal shutdown, DHEC is dipping into agency savings and asking our employees to make some sacrifices," said Director Catherine Templeton. According to Director Catherine Templeton, "This staff has worked with me for the past 18 months to cut down on expenses and become more efficient. The savings we have realized are being reinvested in the citizens of South Carolina by keeping important protections in place while the federal government sorts things out.

Those savings will constitute the WIC operational budget through October 15. To continue to provide for low income women and children through October 31, I will ask all of DHEC's 3500 employees to take one day of furlough for every week of the shut down some time during the next year. This will provide the funds necessary to continue the WIC program should the federal government decide not to reimburse states for monies spent to continue the program during the shutdown."

Because of the federal shutdown, the agency has lost funding for 784 of employees. "It costs the agency \$2.6M a week to keep these programs running. This includes WIC, hospital certification, and nuclear oversight. We are hopeful that the federal government will reimburse the state for its work during this time, but if not, the employees at DHEC are pulling together to make sure the citizens of SC are protected and supported."

There will be no furloughs unless the federal government does not reimburse South Carolina for the program costs. However, the plan has to be recognized and approved now so there is an identified funding stream to keep these programs going. "It is important to maintain these services and protections, but it would be irresponsible to run a deficit and hope someone bails us out. This is a

solid plan that is a win-win for the citizens of South Carolina, but - when you see a DHEC employee, you ought to thank him or her for their dedication and their contribution."

Catherine Templeton