

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



Community Health Administration

Geraldine Henchy, Director
Early Childhood Nutrition
Food Action Research and Action Center
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 540
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ms. Henchy:

The Department of Health, Community Health Administration is reconvening a Nutrition Advisory Council, comprised of District health, nutrition and community food leaders, farmers, vendors and program recipients. The purpose of this Council is to develop comprehensive strategies to address the District's nutritional needs and promote city-wide nutrition programs --programs that work to decrease the incidence of hunger and obesity and promote healthy living. As an immediate activity, the Council will be involved in activities in support of the implementation of the new WIC food package.

We hope you will accept our invitation to serve on this Council. The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 10 a.m. -12:00 pm, WIC State Agency, 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Third Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20020.** Refreshments will be provided.

The Nutrition Advisory Council can help to ensure that District residents are benefiting from the many city-wide nutrition programs and healthy food sources available to them. The Department of Health, Community Health Administration operates many programs – such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program and the WIC and Seniors Farmers' Market Programs that all share the common goals of providing nutrition education, increasing food security, and promoting physical activity among D.C. residents. In addition there are many other beneficial nutrition programs and resources across the District. In order to foster a more collaborative approach, the Council will develop strategies for comprehensive access to programs and healthy food sources.

In December 2007, USDA authorized a new WIC food package that will increase participants' choices and expand cultural food options by offering fruits and vegetables, whole grain bread (with the option to substitute whole grain tortillas, rice or other grains) and the inclusion of soymilk and tofu. The addition of whole grains, a move to low-fat milk and the choice of a full range of fruits and vegetables will strengthen the local WIC State Agency's role in reducing obesity and improving nutrition. The new package presents an opportunity to have a positive impact on the health of WIC participants and the community at-large by improving the array of healthy foods available through WIC.

Please join us as we embark on this exciting journey toward a healthier D.C.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Gloria Clark

WIC Manager