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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For additional information contact:**

**Steve Kelso at (616) 632-7274 or [Steve.Kelso@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Steve.Kelso@kentcountymi.gov)**

**Project FRESH gets free Michigan grown fruits and vegetables to WIC recipients**

GRAND RAPIDS - The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is offering clients of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) the opportunity to get \$25 worth of free food from area farmers markets until October 31, 2018.

Participants will also receive a free class featuring recipes, information about the program and nutritional tips. Participants will then be given a booklet that contains five, \$5 coupons that can be used to purchase eligible, locally grown, fresh, unprepared fruits and vegetables from authorized farmers, farmer's markets and roadside stands. Information about how and where to use the coupons will also be shared at the mandatory classes.

Applicants must make an appointment with KCHD by calling (616) 632-7200 to sign up for one of the classes. Classes will be held at various locations in both English and Spanish until late July.

"The benefits of this program are two-fold," said Abby Bishop, WIC Program Supervisor at KCHD. "We are able to get fresh fruits and vegetables into the hands of our clients, free of charge to them, and we're able to keep the funding for the program in the local economy by supporting the farmers and growers of Kent County."

While the program runs until October 31<sup>st</sup>, Project FRESH is a once a year benefit, meaning each recipient will only receive the \$25 benefit one time this season. A limited number of Project FRESH coupon booklets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503