



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State sealant program expands with Delta Dental Foundation grant

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is celebrating National Children’s Dental Health Month by announcing a \$320,000 grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to sustain and expand [SEAL! Michigan](#). DDF has provided more than \$3 million to support SEAL! Michigan and community water fluoridation since 2010.

“Good oral health starts early and prevention makes a lifelong difference,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “This grant allows us to reach more students with screenings and sealants that can prevent cavities, reduce pain and missed school days, and support children’s health and success both in and out of the classroom.”

“Preventive care should be the backbone of our oral health delivery system,” said Holli Seabury, EdD, executive director of the DDF. “Sealants can help prevent tooth decay and [reduce](#) the need for more complicated, costly treatment later in life.”

This year, two additional local health departments — [District Health Department No. 2](#) and the [Mid-Michigan District Health Department](#) — will join the SEAL! Michigan program, increasing the number of children receiving oral health screenings and sealant placement.

Oral health is an integral part of overall health, especially for children. Healthy teeth can help children eat nutritious foods, speak and smile, which in turn boosts confidence and self-esteem. Preventing pain from tooth decay can also help sustain focus on schoolwork.

During the last school year, SEAL! Michigan provided oral health screenings to 10,700 Michigan children, noting that almost one-third needed early dental care and 35% had untreated cavities. In total, SEAL! Michigan teams applied more than 41,000 sealants.

[Dental sealants](#) coat the dips and grooves on the surface of teeth, preventing bacteria and food from getting caught and causing cavities. SEAL! Michigan offers sealants, dental screenings, fluoride applications and oral health education to elementary and middle school students — all during the school day.

For more information about SEAL! Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/OralHealth.

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DAILY NEWS

Since 1854 — News from Montcalm County and Ionia County, Michigan

WIC services offered in Montcalm County

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*By The Daily News Staff
on February 14, 2026*

Submitted by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department

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Women, Infants & Children (WIC) is a health and nutrition program that has demonstrated a positive effect on pregnancy outcomes, child growth and development. WIC promotes healthy mothers, infants, and children by providing nutrition education and supplemental food to pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5.

WIC services are proudly provided to Montcalm County by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department in Stanton.

WIC provides breastfeeding support and resources for purchasing nutritious foods, such as milk, cheese, eggs, fortified cereal, and peanut butter or dried beans or peas, or formula. Additional services include nutrition education, health counseling and immunizations.

Each month, nearly 190,000 pregnant women, moms, babies, and children less than age 5 receive nutritious foods from the Michigan WIC Program. WIC participants receive help with nutrition education and breastfeeding, as well as referrals to other health services.

Nearly half of all babies born in Michigan receive WIC benefits. The earlier a pregnant woman receives nutritional benefits from WIC, the more likely she is to seek prenatal care and deliver a normal weight infant.

For every dollar invested in the program, WIC saves about \$2.48 in medical, educational and productivity costs.

A family of four may earn up to \$59,478 per year and qualify for WIC.

Local communities are supported with more than \$160 million yearly when WIC foods are purchased at grocery stores and pharmacies.

If you would like to find out if you are eligible for WIC, use the self referral form by visiting mmdhd.org/wic/qualify. If you'd like to learn more about WIC at MMDHD, visit mmdhd.org.

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