

## WIC opens new office at YMCA on Haverhill Street

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**ANDOVER** — The new Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office opened on July 12 at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover, to provide services for more qualifying mothers, infants and children.

WIC provides free, healthy food, nutrition counseling and other services. The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., operates the WIC program in Greater Lawrence, with offices in Lawrence and Methuen, along with the newly opened office in Andover.



“The Andover/North Andover YMCA offers a welcoming environment that is easily accessible by public transportation, making it a great location for our WIC office,” said Evelyn Friedman, executive director of the GLCAC. “The new space allows us to lower barriers that might otherwise prevent eligible people from benefiting from WIC.”

One of the goals of GLCAC’s WIC program is to increase participation among residents of Andover and North Andover. According to GLCAC’s 2015 Needs Assessment Survey, an estimated 196 North Andover residents are eligible for WIC, with 147 residents currently enrolled. An estimated 145 Andover residents are WIC-eligible, with 47 residents currently enrolled.

WIC is available to pregnant women; breastfeeding women up to one-year post-partum; non-breastfeeding women up to 6-months post-partum; infants; and children under 5. Participants must live in Massachusetts, have a household income less than or equal to 185 percent of the federal poverty level, and be at nutritional risk. All foster children under age 5 are automatically eligible for WIC, as are those who receive benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), and WIC-eligible MassHealth plans, such as MassHealth Standard.