

Hidalgo County

Proclamation Recognizing August 2024 as National Breastfeeding Month

Whereas breastfeeding offers unique health benefits essential for an infant's growth and development, while also playing a crucial role in reducing the risk of infectious and chronic diseases and safeguarding the health of both mothers and their children; and

Whereas leading health organizations, including the World Health Organization, advocate for breastfeeding as the ideal first food for infants, recommending exclusive breastfeeding for the initial six months and continued breastfeeding for two years or beyond; and

Whereas the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, offers a vital support system through its provision of healthy food; one-on-one nutrition counseling; recipes; nutrition classes; and breastfeeding support for pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as families with children under five; and

Whereas WIC plays a pivotal role in educating the public on laws that protect a woman's right to breastfeed in public and provides information on the national protections under the PUMP Act (2022), which guarantees pumping breaks and private spaces for nursing employees in various professions, thereby supporting mothers' ability to provide breastmilk after returning to the workforce; and

Whereas Hidalgo County proudly celebrates 50 years of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a program that has profoundly improved pregnancy outcomes and the health and developmental outcomes of children; and

Whereas in celebration of WIC's 50-year milestone, the Hidalgo County WIC Program proudly acknowledges and honors 46 dedicated staff members who have each provided over 20 years of exceptional service; and

Whereas Hidalgo County honors the WIC Peer Counseling Program for its success, including receiving the WIC Breastfeeding Support Award of Excellence in recognition of its exemplary contributions to breastfeeding support; and

Whereas the Lactation Care Center – RGV in McAllen, where mothers can receive expert breastfeeding assistance from International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs), recently celebrated its 10th anniversary on August 2, 2024, during National Breastfeeding Month. This milestone event highlighted Texas WIC's commitment to breastfeeding support and reinforced the theme of "Support Every Step of the Way" for breastfeeding moms and their families.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes August 2024 as National Breastfeeding Month to promote the importance of breastfeeding, support breastfeeding initiatives, and contribute to a nurturing environment that fosters the health and well-being of both mothers and infants.

Approved this 6th day of August 2024.



Richard F. Cortez

RICHARD F. CORTEZ

County Judge

David L. Fuentes

DAVID L. FUENTES

County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU

County Commissioner, Pct. 2

Everardo "Ever" Villarreal

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL

County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Ellie Torres

ELLIE TORRES

County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.

ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.

County Clerk

