



Proclamation
Of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Recognizing August 2023 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month

WHEREAS, human milk provides the ideal balance of nutrients for infant growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease in both mother and child; and can influence weight stability reducing low, overweight and obesity incident in ages ranging from 2 to 5 years of age; and

WHEREAS, promotion of breastfeeding is a primary Public Health prevention strategy fostering a foundation for life-long health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, employers that provide workplace lactation support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health care costs, absenteeism, and turnover rates, and improved morale, job satisfaction, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Public Health Division Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Public Health Nursing Maternal Child Adolescent Health program actively educates, supports and promotes breastfeeding as the norm for infants up to age one year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, currently 31.5% of infants enrolled in the El Dorado County Public Health WIC Program are breastfed exclusively, a trend that is consistent with the Healthy People 2030 national breastfeeding objective to increase the proportion of infants who are breastfed exclusively through age 6 months to 42.4 percent and who continue breastfeeding through the 12th month of age to 54.1 percent; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week is celebrated concurrently with World Breastfeeding Week to increase support for Native first food experiences, promote healing and wellness, and increase access, opportunity, visibility, and equity in Indigenous Milk experiences; and

WHEREAS, First 5 El Dorado Commission and El Dorado County Public Health join professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide celebrating World Breastfeeding Week on August 1-7 each year to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and further promote strategies to protect optimal breastfeeding practices and encourage increased breastfeeding rates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby designate the month of August 2023 as “Breastfeeding Awareness Month” and calls upon government agencies, hospitals, health care providers and other community partners to increase public awareness of the health benefits and importance of supporting mothers who want to breastfeed.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 25 day of July 2023.

Attest:
Kim Dawson, Clerk of the Board

Wendy Thomas, Chair Board of Supervisors