

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Terrence Ates
Public Information Officer
(903) 343 - 5451



First-Ever Texas WIC Shining Star Award Recipient
Tyler, Texas (April 19, 2023)

"You have probably never heard of our Shining Star Award, and that's because it has never been given out before," said Edgar Curtis, Texas WIC Director. "Tecora is the first to ever receive our Shining Star Award and there is no intention to turn this into an annual award. If public service has a Hall of Fame, she would be its first inductee."

The Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) presented the first-ever Shining Star Award to Tecora Smith, the NET Health Director of 21 WIC clinics in northeast Texas. This award is the first of its kind and recognizes exceptional leadership, service and dedication to the children and families served by Texas WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.

A true trailblazer, Smith regularly spearheads initiatives to improve the WIC program, connects with key stakeholders to improve early childhood nutrition, and conveys the needs of the people WIC serves. Smith is a National WIC Association board member and is a former board president of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors.

About Texas WIC

WIC is a federal nutrition program for pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and families with children younger than 5. Texas WIC, administered by the Health and Human Services Commission, helps improve the diets of infants and children as well as pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women by providing monthly healthy food packages, nutrition counseling, education and breastfeeding support.

For more information on WIC benefits and eligibility, visit [TexasWIC.org](https://www.texaswic.org).

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

NET Health serves a vital function of promoting health, preventing illness, and protecting our communities through our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) & Community Outreach.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community.

Visit us at [MyNETHealth.org](https://www.MyNETHealth.org) -- ["Like" us on Facebook](#) & ["Follow" us on Instagram](#).

###



Pictured left to right are Amanda Hovis (Texas WIC Director of Nutrition Education and Clinical Services), George Roberts (NET Health CEO), Tecora Smith (NET Health WIC Director), Edgar Curtis (Texas WIC Director), and Jenny Lassiter (NET Health WIC Assistant Director).

