



WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- Program Updates - Kate
 - FFY 2027 Continuing Resolution
 - WIC Funding Formula Updates
 - 2025 Local Agency Breastfeeding Awards
 - Minnesota WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Award
 - New Public Charge Rule
- Haitian Culture and Foods Toolkit - Intern
- Mobile Management and Text Messaging - Tami
- NWA WIC Participant Journey Video, if time

Program Updates

FFY 2027 Continuing Resolution (CR) – Kate Franken

A continuing resolution was passed by Congress and signed by the President on September 2, 2026. The CR funds the federal government through December 11, 2026, at current levels. This gives Congress more time to negotiate on a budget and pushes the decision past the mid-term elections. The CR continues higher issuance of milk passed with appropriation FFY 2026. USDA Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) indicated an inflationary adjustment for WIC fruit and vegetable benefit (CVB) may be forthcoming.

WIC Funding Formula Updates – Kate Franken

Kate reviewed points about WIC funding.

- WIC is a discretionary program that relies on an annual appropriation for funding
- This is different than other nutrition assistance programs like SNAP, School Meals, CACFP, that are mandatory programs
- Appropriations process occurs in Congress, and budgets should be set for federal programs by passing appropriation bills before October 1st
- Congress hasn't met the October 1 date for passing all appropriation bills since 1997
- Continuing Resolutions extend federal funding from prior year through end date to give Congress more time to negotiate and pass appropriations bills
- USDA allocates funds to state agencies using a funding formula

WIC funding flows at the national level from USDA Annual Appropriations Act to USDA FNA then to State Agencies and from there to Local Agencies. States receive funding quarterly, Quarter 1, Oct – Dec. (Allocation – 1/3 of annual funding in October), Quarter 2, Jan – Mar (Allocation – 1/4 in April and reallocation of funds), Quarter 3, Apr – Jun (Allocation – 1/4 in April and reallocation of funds), Quarter 4, Jul – Sept (Allocation – 1/6 in July and reallocation of funds).

Funding Sources for WIC Program at MDH.

- 2 Main WIC Grants from USDA to States.
 - Food Grant – covers all food costs for program (covers approx. 75-80% of food costs).
 - Nutrition Services and Administration Grant (NSA) – covers state and local agency costs.
- Additional Funding from Infant Formula Rebates.
 - 2 different contracts (milk formulas, soy formulas).
 - Covers approximately 20-25% of food costs.
 - Invoiced monthly based on # of cans of standard formula redeemed by participants.
 - Once received funds are used to pay daily WIC food costs with eWIC processor until exhausted.

Previous WIC funding formula provided flat per participant funding based on prior participation level and base funding for very small WIC agencies. Funding was provided quarterly through funding letters until changes were made in 2021 to annual funding letters per request by local agencies. Annual funding notices typically were provided in October except when there was a federal shutdown. Some additional funds included supplemental funding - \$2500, supplemental clinic travel, special projects, training, etc. The per participant rate has been increased, when possible, based on federal WIC grant funding. Additional grant funding has been provided during FFY when possible, typically not until second half of year.

MDH WIC is moving to a tiered WIC funding formula to account for disproportionate costs and resource constraints experienced by smaller and rural communities. Smaller and rural communities experience diseconomies of scale:

- Certain level of fixed overhead and smaller population to distribute costs across
- Generally lower tax base diversification
- Geographic spread and low-density population
- Very small agencies will continue to receive a base grant amount (serving less than 100/month)

Tier #	Caseload	Rate
1	Over 10,000	\$22.00
2	3,000 to 9,999	\$22.25
3	1000 to 2,999	\$22.50
4	500 to 999	\$22.75
5	100 to 499	\$23.00
6	Under 100	\$25,000.00

Caseload used is highest monthly participation count for calendar year 2025

An additional funding amount of \$10,000 will be provided to programs that:

*** serve 4 or more counties (CCLSTL, Countryside, Horizon, Quin, SWHHS) OR**

*** have a county geography/service area >1900 square miles (AIK, Cass, PNM, Prairie Lakes) with staff that travel to 3 or more clinics**

With the new tiered funding formula all WIC agencies will receive a higher per participant funding level than in FFY2026. Only five grantees will see a decrease from funding level in FFY 2026. These agencies had received Supplemental Clinic Travel Funding (SCTF) but were not fully utilizing the supplemental funds for this purpose and the new grant amount matches closely to reported travel costs. There will be no SCTF provided as tiers help address smaller agencies with large geographic service areas along with the \$10,000 funding for grantees with four or more counties or serving an area larger than 1900 square miles with three or more WIC clinic sites. Providing more funding at the start of the FFY allows grantees the full year to use the funding for WIC program purposes. Funding notices will be sent to grantees soon in annual funding letters.

Please reach out to your consultant with questions and we are happy to meet with grantees individually to review and discuss their funding and operations. Kate acknowledged that any funding changes can be worrisome and stressful for grantees. We appreciate and value our partnership in administering the WIC Program in Minnesota.

2025 Local Agency Breastfeeding Awards – Kristen Bricko

The breastfeeding awards are awards of excellence. Recognition is provided at three levels, gold, premiere and Elite (highest level). Local Agencies may apply for any award level and will receive the highest award based on the criteria as noted in the application instructions. MN WIC received two gold awards and three premiere awards. Gold awardees include Meeker, McLeod Sibley Counties and Goodhue County Health and Human Services. Premiere awardees include Human Services of Faribault and Martin Counties, Itasca County, and Lake County. Congratulations!

Minnesota WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Award – Rosie Pierce-Martin

Congratulations to MN WIC Program!! MN has some of the highest national fully breastfeeding rates. Thank you for all your efforts to make this happen! We acknowledge all your hard work! This year \$248, 926 is awarded to MN. The funds can be used through September 30, 2027. We are exploring ways to use these funds; more information will be coming.

New Public Charge Rule – Kate Franken

“In simple terms, ‘public charge’ is a “test” or determination used by immigration officials to determine whether a noncitizen will be dependent on the government for support.” In the previous rule it was limited to cash assistance or long-term care but isn’t any longer.

On July 20, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finalized the [Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility](#).

NWA shared a resource with state agencies created by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) related to [Public Charge and WIC: What You Need to Know](#).

The [Help Me Connect](#) resource provides a list of community immigrant law resources.

Local WIC agencies should consult with their legal counsel in responding to questions and concerns from WIC applicants and participants.

Haitian Culture and Foods Toolkit – Intern, Evena Backer, University of Minnesota MPH Program shares a Haitian Cultural Toolkit to support culturally responsive nutrition care for Haitian WIC families. See WIC Cultural Toolkit for more information on this toolkit and others available for WIC staff.

Mobile Management and Text Messaging – Tami Matti

The group text message feature in Mobile Management allows authorized local agency staff to send text messages to multiple recipients at one time by uploading a CSV file. This will be available Oct. 1. Learn more: [Group Text Messages in Mobile Management \(PDF\)](#).

In addition, we will also be adding a new State Use Question where Text Message Release Documentation will be recorded. This question will be required for all participants. A Communication Release is being developed and is currently under review by legal. This will allow either the Local Agency or the State Office to send text messages. Policies 1.7 and 9.6 will also be updated with the new language which includes the State office. Watch the Weekly Update on Sept. 23 for more information.

NWA WIC Participant Journey Video

The Enhancing [Equity Throughout the WIC Participant Journey](#) is made available for WIC staff through the National WIC Association (NWA).

The video covers considerations for each of the various components of a WIC interaction with an equity lens.

- WIC awareness
- Application and enrollment
- Nutrition education and appointments
- Critical Communication
- Shopping with WIC benefits
- Recertification and retention

Questions & Answers

To calculate funding, do you take the highest monthly caseload x 12 months for the annual total?

Yes

Will there still be end of year funding, or is that ending?

We will send out a final reimbursement if there are remaining funds at the end of the year after all claims have been received.

Could you pinpoint the report used to get caseload numbers: YTD Participation by Agency or FFY Cumulative Monthly Summary?

If you want to see your final numbers, you can use the FFY Cumulative Monthly Summary by Grantee report found on the website

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/participation.html>

For current participation you can use the Year-to-Date Participation in Infoview or found on the Local Agency Portal.

Can we still use our own locally developed consent form if it covers texting?

All texting forms will need to adopt the language in policy to cover both state and local texting services. Watch the Sept 23 weekly update for the information.

Will this cover all texting options agencies have?

Yes.

Will this be added to the DocuSign templates?

No.

Can clients refuse texting?

Yes.

Will the texting consent be translated into Spanish and Somali?

Yes.

References – complete listing of hyperlinks

Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility (https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.federalregister.gov%2Fdocuments%2F2026%2F07%2F20%2F2026-14539%2Fpublic-charge-ground-of-inadmissibility/1/0101019ff73e0119-ccc7f2e9-3484-4719-ba51-99147ab3f013-000000/hFQq_-lCNHi6zLfYbHpAeHtwSzGdU24Q1C6oCsn0jg=452)

Public Charge and WIC: What You Need to Know (<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/public-charge-and-wic-what-you-need-to-know>)

Help Me Connect (<https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect/>)

Group Text Messages in Mobile Management (PDF) (<https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.health.state.mn.us%2Fdocs%2Fpeople%2Fwic%2Flocalagency%2Fwu%2F2026%2Fgrouptexting.pdf/1/010101a0ab7c7088-86557ca3-44d6-4454-827d-d41e52365c6f-000000/X3DirbDghfG0yZDFJeoPxch8U3afiloHPsUc4MQd1MU=452>)

Equity Throughout the WIC Participant Journey (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDwEwfUi85M>)

WIC Monthly Participation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/participation.html>)

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program, 625 Robert St N, PO BOX 64975, ST PAUL MN 55164-0975; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; to obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942.

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