WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- Welcome - Kate
- Public Charge Resource - Kate
- Waiver follow up questions - Kate
- Kenyan Culture and Foods Toolkit – Carole and Eliphaz Omote
- New Participant Advisory Group - Tina
- 2027 State WIC conference - Carole
- Changes with medical formula orders - Jessie/Rebecca
- Grant agreements: delay and reminder about budgets - Rebecca

Program Updates

Public Charge Resource – Kate Franken
We wanted to make you aware of a resource that was developed by Department of Human Resources (DHS) and Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) about public charge.
Does Public Charge Apply to You?

Waiver follow up questions – Kate Franken
Currently, there has been no additional information from Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA). We are confident that waivers authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 remain effective through September 30, 2027, and there is no immediate need for changes.

Kenyan Culture and Food Toolkit – Intern, Eliphaz Omote
Eliphaz shared his goals through project were to reconnect with his culture and to help WIC staff better understand Kenyan cultural awareness. He shared a variety of details in his presentation, which can be viewed on the WIC Cultural Toolkit page in the coming months.

New Participant Advisory Group (PAG) – Tina
Round two of the group is beginning with an orientation on November 9 (2 hours) where they will cover the basics like WIC 101, how group members can invoice MDH WIC for their time, and Kate will welcome the group. The group will meet every other month for one hour. Tina shares that ten participants submitted interest through surveys and eight interviews were completed. In the final group there are six PAG members. They will receive $50/hour for their time. This round of the PAG ends June 2028. Meeting topics will vary (e.g., customer service, shopping, how heard about WIC, WIC app, etc.). PAG members are from the following areas, Wright

(Buffalo), Anoka (Fridley), Olmsted (Rochester), Jackson (Heron Lake), Houston (La Crescent) and Dakota (Cottage Grove).

2027 State WIC Conference – Carole
Event Details:

- **Date:** Thursday, April 22, 2027
- **Location:** Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center (Brooklyn Center, MN)
- **Format:** Live, in-person event only (**sessions will not be recorded**)

Registration will be coming out in early December. Details can be found at MN WIC Education and Training Conferences .

Changes with medical formula orders – Jessie/Rebecca
Thank you for transitioning about 70 families off medical formula provided through WIC. We will be looking at more details to see if families remained participating in WIC. Sharing a reminder that as of Oct. 1, WIC staff can no longer issue these formulas. The formulas will soon be removed from the Approved Product Listing (APL). Please reach out to your consultant if you have any details to share about this transition.

Grant agreements: delay and reminder about budgets – Rebecca
We are experiencing some delays within our agency due to a new template being released. Our grants office is working with our legal team to finalize language in the templates. They hope to have templates for us soon and tentatively indicated in the next week. Once we receive them, we'll need some time to process on our end. Our estimated timeline is to get these to you in November. In the meantime, your agency can work on the budget portion of the grant agreement. This is new this year. In the WIC Weekly Update - Sept. 23, 2026 we shared more details so you can begin to prepare to enter into the grant agreement.

Questions & Answers

How can we contact Pediatric Home Services (PHS) to connect WIC families that need medical formulas the MN WIC doesn't offer?

Pediatric Home Services (PHS) commonly works with WIC families. Use the following to connect new families to PHS:

- Phone: 651-642-1825 (Option 4).
- Email: CS@pediatrichomeservice.com.
- PHS does use a language line for those needing translation services.

With the budget section of the grant agreement, will there be a form, will we be able to edit?

Yes, grantees will be able to enter budget information directly into the grant agreement.

Will grantees be able to indicate more than their award amount in the budget section of the grant agreement?

Yes, the budget grantees submit in the grant agreement doesn't need to match their annual WIC grant award from MDH.

References – complete listing of hyperlinks

Does Public Charge Apply to You? (https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-8044C-ENG)

WIC Cultural Toolkit (https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/culturaltool.html)

Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center (https://heritagecenter.mn/)

MN WIC Education and Training Conferences (https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/conferences.html)

WIC Weekly Update - Sept. 23, 2026 (https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/42bf0bd)

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