



# 2022 NWA National Policy Conference

FEBRUARY 14 - 17, 2022

## AGENDA

**Day 1**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM**

### **Opening General Session: The Power of Raising Your WIC Voice during COVID-19**

**Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)**, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee

**Stacy Dean**, Deputy Undersecretary of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Sarah Flores-Sievers**, NWA Board Chair

**Brian Dittmeier**, National WIC Association

**Kate Devino**, Missoula County WIC, Montana

**Megan Esparza**, Camino Health Center WIC, California

**Leslie Hibbs**, City of Dallas WIC, Texas

**1:00-1:45 PM**

### **Introduction to WIC Policy**

**Noora Kanfash**, National WIC Association

### **Landscape of WIC Research**

**Christina Chauvenet**, National WIC Association

**Leslie Hodges**, USDA/ERS

**Kelley Scanlon**, USDA/FNS

**Alexander Bush**, USDA/FNS

**Hunjin Lee**, USDA/FNS

**Karen Castellanos-Brown**, USDA/FNS

### **The WIC Benefit Bump: Impacts on Farm and Retail Partners**

**Lori Taylor**, The Produce Moms

**Nichole Towell**, Duda Farm Fresh Foods

**Mike Roberts**, Harps Food Stores

**Mollie Van Lieu**, International Fresh Produce Association

**2:15-3:30 PM**

### **General Session: Transformative Change to Reduce Child Poverty**

**Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)**

**Cara Baldari**, First Focus on Children

**Juanita Morris**, Black Women's Health Imperative

**Jada Ledbetter**, Black Women's Health Imperative

**Whitney Pesek**, National Women's Law Center



**National WIC  
Association**

*All times are in the Eastern Standard time zone*



4:00–5:00 PM

**Preparing to Educate Policymakers**

**Noora Kanfash**, National WIC Association

**Samar McGregor**, PHFE WIC, California

**Aryn DeGrave**, Milwaukee Health Dept. WIC, Wisconsin

**USDA Session: 390 Fund for WIC Innovation**

**Sarah Widor**, USDA/FNS

**Sara Olson**, USDA/FNS

**Allison Post**, USDA/FNS

**Strengthening the WIC Workforce to Ensure Equitable Access to WIC Services**

**Elizabeth Campbell**, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

**Linda Kilby**, NORTH Inc. WIC, Pennsylvania

**Susan Wnuk**, CAP Belknap-Merrimack WIC, New Hampshire

**Toncé Jackson**, PHFE WIC, California

**Day 2**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

11:00 AM–12:15 PM

**General Session: Building a Healthier WIC: Next Steps to Expand the Food Package**

**Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY)

**Shannon Whaley**, PHFE WIC, Vice Chair of the NASEM Review Committee

**Angela Odoms-Young**, Cornell University, Member of the NASEM Review Committee

**Kempenie Sutton-Dean**, NWA Participant Advisory Council

12:45–1:45 PM

**Fundamentals of Regulatory Commenting**

**Noora Kanfash**, National WIC Association

**Food Package Workshop: Building on the WIC Benefit Bump**

**Loreen Ritchie**, Nutrition Policy Institute

**Cindy Gamble**, American Indian Health Commission WIC, Washington

**Heidi Hoffman**, Colorado WIC

**Online Shopping Workshop: Introducing Virtual Platforms**

**Kate Franken**, Minnesota WIC

**Melissa Valdez**, New Mexico WIC

**Sean Mack**, Georgia WIC

2:15–3:30 PM

**General Session: Building a Modern WIC: Next Steps to Advance Online Shopping**

**Melinda Newport**, Chickasaw Nation WIC, Chair of USDA Task Force

**Paul Throne**, Washington WIC

**Antonia Kiefer**, NWA Participant Advisory Council, South Dakota





4:00–5:00 PM

**How to Engage Partners in Regulatory Commenting**

**Lauren Cromer**, Metro Public Health WIC, Tennessee

**Cashawna Shakir**, NWA Participant Advisory Council

**Food Package Workshop: Promoting Choice Consistent with DGA Recommendations**

**Angela Hammond-Damon**, Georgia WIC

**Christina Windrix**, Oklahoma WIC

**Online Shopping Workshop: Modernizing the WIC Transaction**

**Candice Trujillo**, Southwest Region, New Mexico WIC

**Celeste Lunceford**, Texas WIC

**Kim Boulette**, Connecticut WIC

**Day 3**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

11:00–11:15 PM

**Presentation of the NWA Leadership Award**

**Rep. Bobby Scott** (D-VA), Chair of the House Education & Labor Committee

11:15 AM–12:30 PM

**General Session: Looking Ahead: Prioritizing Child Nutrition Reauthorization to Sustain Remote Services**

**Rep. Jahana Hayes** (D-CT)

**Tecora Smith**, Northeast Texas Public Health District WIC, Texas

**Laura Spaulding**, Deschutes County WIC, Oregon

**Venay Uecke**, NWA Participant Advisory Council

1:00–2:00 PM

**Food Safety: Impacts of FDA Policy on WIC Foods**

**Kellie Casavale**, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

**Conrad Choiniere**, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

**Karen Bettin**, Oregon WIC

**Lissa Sirois**, New Hampshire WIC

**WIC Marketing & Outreach during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Whitney Carlson**, National WIC Association

**Rebecca Bailey**, DC WIC

**Priyanka Raj**, CMRignite

**Katie Smallwood**, CMRignite

**Breakout Session: Preparing for Capitol Hill Education Day**

**Theresa Landau**, Morrisania WIC, NY

**Samar McGregor**, PHFE WIC, CA





2:30–3:30 PM

**How Workplace Policies Impact WIC Families**

**Sarah Brafman**, A Better Balance

**The Impact of Climate Change and Air Pollution on WIC Families**

**Laura Kate Bender**, American Lung Association

**Diana Van Vleet**, American Lung Association

**Nse Obot Witherspoon**, Children’s Environmental Health Network

**Breakout Session: Preparing for Capitol Hill Education Day**

**Theresa Landau**, Morrisania WIC, NY

**Samar McGregor**, PHFE WIC, CA

4:00–5:00 PM

**USDA Session: WIC Program Updates**

**Sara Olson**, USDA/FNS

**Sarah Widor**, USDA/FNS

**Dana Rasmussen**, USDA/FNS

**Allison Post**, USDA/FNS

**Jerilyn Malliet**, USDA/FNS

**Amy Herring**, USDA/FNS

**Valery Soto**, USDA/FNS

**Hayes Brown**, USDA/FNS

**Building Advocacy into Everyday WIC**

**Noora Kanfash**, National WIC Association

**Brittany Van Pelt**, National WIC Association

**Reanna Plourde**, City of Bangor WIC, ME

**Breakout Session: Preparing for Capitol Hill Education Day**

**Theresa Landau**, Morrisania WIC, NY

**Samar McGregor**, PHFE WIC, CA

5:00–5:15 PM

**Call to Action**

**Brian Dittmeier**, National WIC Association

**Day 4**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

**NWA WIC Education Day on Capitol Hill (virtual)**

