

# HOW WIC HELPS THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA



## State WIC Director

Brenda Carter  
886 Markoma Cir, PO Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

800.256.0671  
brenda-carter@cherokee.org

### Mission of WIC

Assuring healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, growth and development for mothers, babies, and young children to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. Providing nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.



**40%**

OF INFANTS BORN IN  
THE UNITED STATES  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



**51%**

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
IN THE UNITED STATES  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA?

**5,478**

WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	<b>629</b>
Breastfeeding women.....	<b>280</b>
Postpartum women.....	<b>407</b>
Infants.....	<b>1,389</b>
Children.....	<b>2,772</b>

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **92 percent** between 1998 and 2020.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in the Cherokee Nation in 2020, **43 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Childhood obesity rate, WIC toddlers, 2020..... **17%**



**Fruit and Vegetable Benefit:** Congress enhanced WIC's fruit and vegetable benefit to align with scientific recommendations. Current monthly benefit amounts are \$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$52 for breastfeeding participants. In FY 2023, WIC provided an estimated **\$1.5M** in fruit and vegetable benefits to **4,088** participants in the Cherokee Nation.

## THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$22,891**

AVERAGE FAMILY  
INCOME

**79%**

RECEIVED  
MEDICAID

**\$44.84**

AVERAGE  
MONTHLY FOOD  
COST IN FY 2023

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE CHEROKEE NATION ECONOMY IN FY 2023

**\$2.9M**

TO SPEND AT  
FOOD RETAILERS

**\$1.5M**

FORMULA  
REBATES  
RECEIVED

**\$3.5M**

NUTRITION,  
BREASTFEEDING  
SERVICES & ADMIN

Sources: WIC eligible individuals participating from USDA WIC Eligibility Estimates report for 2021 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/eligibility-and-program-reach-estimates-2021>). WIC participants and economic impact from USDA WIC Data Tables for fiscal year (FY) 2023 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>) as of January 30, 2024. Participant characteristics for 2020 and WIC breastfeeding and rates for years displayed from USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristics reports (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/participant-program-characteristics-2020>). WIC fruit and vegetable benefit calculated as the sum of FY 2023 issuance rates multiplied by average participation rates for each participant category from USDA WIC Data Tables. Maternal mortality from America's Health Rankings ([https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/maternal\\_mortality\\_c](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/maternal_mortality_c)). Infant mortality and preterm birth rate from CDC ([https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats\\_of\\_the\\_states.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats_of_the_states.htm)). Obesity outcomes from CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-among-WIC-enrolled-young-children>).