



FISCAL YEAR 2025 WIC APPROPRIATIONS

NWA RECOMMENDS:

The National WIC Association (NWA) calls for \$7.75 billion in budget authority for WIC in FY2025 and urges Congress to support implementation of evidence-based updates to WIC's food packages.



WIC: INVESTING IN A HEALTHIER NEXT GENERATION

For fifty years, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has improved birth and early childhood outcomes, setting children up for future life success with targeted nutrition support. In fiscal year 2023, WIC served nearly 6.6 million pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five - including 44 percent of all infants born in the United States. WIC participation is projected to expand to 7 million individuals in Fiscal Year 2025.

WIC's targeted nutrition support mitigates chronic diet-related conditions like diabetes, with every dollar invested in WIC returning \$2.48 in healthcare savings. For decades, bipartisan support in Congress has enabled WIC to serve all eligible families who seek WIC services as a down payment on the health of the next generation.

Increased participation requires a larger funding commitment from Congress. In FY24, Congress reaffirmed its bipartisan commitment to WIC, by providing full funding for the program. **NWA calls on Congress to fund WIC at \$7.75 billion in FY25 to serve projected caseloads**, reflecting

steadfast commitment to ensuring that no eligible family is turned away from the program.

BUILDING NUTRITION SECURITY

Forthcoming evidence-based updates to WIC's food packages also mark an exciting step forward for the program. USDA's final rule follows independent recommendations to align WIC's nutrition support with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and builds on recent Congressional efforts to enhance WIC benefits. The WIC food packages are carefully crafted to deliver priority nutrients and introduce program participants to a broad range of nutrient-dense foods. **NWA urges Congress to reject any legislative efforts – including riders in the appropriations process – that would undermine the independent, science-based updates to the WIC food packages.**

WIC PROGRAM INVESTMENTS

NWA calls for funding WIC at \$7.75 billion, higher than the President's Budget request, to allow WIC providers to swiftly implement key program improvements. Updates to WIC's complex computer systems will be essential as the program continues to transition to modern service delivery models, with

revisions needed to implement the revised food packages, further integrate with healthcare databases, and scale up new transaction technologies like online and mobile payments. **NWA recommends that Congress institute a \$50 million set-aside for Management Information Systems**, as authorized in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, as well as set asides of \$90 million to fund WIC's effective Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program and \$16 million to fund infrastructure and special projects.

FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

Although a separate program and funding line, the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a critical partner that connects WIC families with their local farm economy. **NWA calls on Congress to provide \$30 million for FMNP.** Additional investment will allow more state agencies to establish FMNP projects and to allow more WIC families, counties, and farmers markets to realize the benefits of participating in FMNP.