

July 31, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

As providers of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unique challenges for pregnant and postpartum women, babies, and young children. As Congress continues to consider additional COVID-19 relief, WIC providers urgently need an extension of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waiver authority through at least September 30, 2021.

We thank Congress for their swift action in March 2020 to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which allowed the USDA to waive program requirements, including the physical presence requirement, to streamline WIC services during the COVID-19 pandemic. That waiver authority is set to expire on September 30, 2020, which would be catastrophic for WIC providers. Waiver authority afforded our state and local WIC providers the flexibility to choose the most appropriate WIC service model with consideration of COVID-19 rates, state and local reopening plans, clinic infrastructure, and other localized factors.

Many of our WIC clinics have implemented remote services through telephone, video, or other online platforms, while others have adopted curbside service models to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. The primary concern of WIC providers is ensuring the safety of our participants and their families. If waivers are not extended, WIC clinics may be forced to open their doors prematurely. This would put our staff at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and could potentially leave our agencies understaffed and, therefore, unable to serve the increasing number of WIC eligible families.

Not only does reopening WIC clinics prematurely put staff at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19, it also puts families, who are already experiencing economic instability and nutritional risk, at an unfair and increased risk of contracting the disease as well. As providers, we have seen and heard the positive response from families to the waiver flexibilities, including remote service. There is significant concern that families who need critical WIC support may drop off the program if they are required to return to the clinic during the pandemic.

Waiver extensions are necessary for WIC providers to continue to safely deliver WIC services while simultaneously preparing for clinics to reopen. WIC providers need adequate time to restructure clinic spaces, procure personal protective equipment (PPE), and establish new policies around social distancing before reopening. Our state and local WIC agencies need the autonomy and flexibilities to make appropriate decisions for how best to serve WIC families during this pandemic. In order to do so, it is critical that USDA's waiver authority is extended through at least September 30, 2021.

Thank you for your work to support families with children during this crisis. We look forward to continuing to serve pregnant women, mothers, babies, and children in the safest manner possible through this pandemic. Please direct any questions to Noora Kanfash, State Public Policy Associate at the National WIC Association, at nkanfash@nwica.org.

Sincerely,

State WIC Associations:

Arizona Local Agency WIC Association	Nebraska WIC Association
California WIC Association	Nutrition First
Colorado Local WIC Directors Association	Pennsylvania WIC Association
Massachusetts WIC Program Directors Association	Texas Association of Local WIC Directors
Michigan WIC Association	The WIC Association of New York State, Inc.
Montana Association of WIC Agencies	Wisconsin WIC Association

Local WIC Agencies:

Mobile County Health Department WIC, AL	Contra Costa County WIC, CA
Norton Sound Health Corporation WIC Nome, AK	County of Humboldt, Public Health WIC, CA
Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments WIC, AR	County of San Joaquin WIC Program, CA
Pima County WIC Program, AZ	County of San Mateo, CA
Desert Senita Community Health Center, AZ	Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, CA
Gila County WIC, AZ	Glenn County Health and Human Services Agency, CA
Greenlee County, AZ	LA BioMed WIC Program, CA
MHC WIC Program, AZ	La Clinica de la Raza, Inc., CA
Mountain Park Health Center, AZ	Merced County Community Action Agency, CA
Native Health WIC, AZ	Monterey County WIC, CA
Alameda County WIC Program, CA	Napa County WIC, CA
Antelope Valley Healthcare District, CA	Northeast Valley Health Corporation WIC, CA
Camino Health Center, CA	Nutrition and Fitness Collaborative of the Central Coast, CA
City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services, Nutrition Services Division, CA	PHFE WIC, CA
Community Bridges, CA	Planned Parenthood WIC, CA
Community Medical Centers, Inc. WIC, CA	

Sacramento County, Department of Health Services, CA
San Mateo County WIC Program, CA
San Ysidro Health, CA
Santa Clara County WIC, CA
Scripps Mercy Hospital WIC, CA
Stanislaus County Health Services Agency WIC, CA
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, CA
Toiyabe Indian Health WIC Program
Tulare County HHS WIC Program, CA
United Indian Health Services, Inc., CA
Ventura County WIC, CA
West Central Community Action WIC Program, CA
West Oakland Health WIC, CA
Eagle County WIC Program, CO
El Jebel and Aspen WIC Clinics (Eagle and Pitkin Counties, Colorado), CO
Jeffco Public Health, CO
Larimer County Loveland WIC Program, CO
Mesa County WIC Program, CO
Northeast Colorado Health Department, CO
Oswego County WIC Program, CO
Pueblo County WIC, CO
San Juan Basin Public Health, CO
Summit County Public Health, CO
Teller County Public Health and Environment, CO
Tompkins County Health Department, CO
Tri-County Health Department WIC, CO
Weld County WIC in Colorado, CO
Access Agency DKH, CT
Bristol WIC Program, CT
East Hartford Regional WIC Office, CT

City of Hartford- WIC Program, CT
Connecticut Institute for Communities WIC Program, CT
Fair Haven WIC, CT
Middletown WIC Agency, CT
Middlesex Health WIC Program, CT
New Britain WIC Office, CT
New Haven WIC Program, CT
Norwalk WIC Program, CT
Optimus Health Care WIC Program, CT
Southwest Community Health Center WIC, CT
Town of East Hartford WIC Agency, CT
TVCCA, CT
Waterbury WIC Program, CT
Yale-New Haven Hospital WIC Program, CT
Howard University Hospital WIC Program, DC
Unity Health Care, Inc., DC
Delaware Opportunities, DE
Alachua County, FL
Department of Health WIC Greenacres PBC, FL
Hillsborough County WIC, FL
Palm Beach WIC Program, FL
WIC Nutrition Program, Broward County, FL
District 2 Gainesville WIC Program, GA
District 2 Public Health, GA
Kalih-Palama Health Center WIC, HI
Kapiolani WIC, HI
Kokua Kalihi Valley WIC, HI
Marimn Health WIC Program, ID
Livingston County Health Department, IL
Macon County Health Department, IL
Centerstone Indiana WIC Agency, IN

Henricks County WIC, IN
Highpoint Health WIC Program, IN
Indiana Health Centers, INC WIC Program, IN
LaGrange County WIC, IN
Marion County WIC, IN
Neighborhood Health, IN
Tippencanoe County WIC, IN
Broadlawns WIC Program, IA
Community Action of Southeast Iowa, IA
MATURA Action Corporation, IA
Atchison County Health Department, KS
Haskell County Health Dept./WIC Program, KS
Lyon County, Kansas WIC, KS
Shawnee County WIC Office, KS
Wyandotte County Public Health Department, KS
Lake Cumberland District Health Department, KY
Crescent City Family Services, Inc., LA
BAMSI, MA
Berkshire Medical Center, Inc., MA
Citizens for Citizens Taunton Attleboro WIC Program, MA
Community Action, Inc./MA Northern Essex WIC, MA
Community Action Pioneer Valley, MA
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center WIC, MA
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc, MA
Lowell WIC Program, Community Teamwork, Inc., MA
North Suburban WIC Program, MA
South Cove WIC Program, MA
South Middlesex Opportunity Council/Framingham-Waltham WIC, MA
Tapestry, MA
Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., MA
Allegany County WIC Program, MD
Anne Arundel County WIC, MD
Baltimore City Health Department WIC, MD
CCI Montgomery County WIC, MD
Johns Hopkins WIC Program, MD
Langley Takoma Park WIC, MD
Southern Maryland WIC, MD
Upper Shore WIC, MD
Western Maine Community Action, ME
Coshocton County WIC, MI
Barry Eaton District Health Department, MI
Branch Hillsdale St Joseph Community Health Agency, MI
Calhoun County Public Health Department WIC, MI
Central Michigan District Health Department, MI
City of Detroit Health Department, MI
Detroit Urban League, MI
District Health Department #10, MI
District Health Department #2, MI
Family Care Health Centers, MI
Grand Traverse County WIC, MI
Ingham County Health Department - WIC, MI
InterCare Community Health Network, MI
Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services, MI
Macomb County Health Department, MI
Mid-Michigan Community Action, MI
Monroe County Health Department - WIC, MI
Marquette County Health Department, MI

Tuscola County Health Department, MI
WIC Bay County Health Department, MI
Benton County Public Health/WIC, MN
Bloomington Public Health, MN
Brown County Public Health, MN
Meeker McLeod Sibley CHS, MN
Wadena County Public Health, MN
Waseca County Public Health, MN
White Earth Tribal WIC, MN
G. A. Carmichael Family Health Center, MS
Caldwell County Health Department, MO
Callaway County Health Department, MO
Christian County Health Department, MO
Cooper County Public Health Center, MO
Crawford County Health Department, MO
Crescent WIC Clinic, MO
Lafayette County Health Department, MO
People's Health Centers WIC Program, MO
Pettis County Health Center WIC, MO
St. Clair County, MO
Washington County Health Department, MO
Wayne County Health Center, Greenville, MO
Big Horn County WIC Agency, MT
Cascade City County Health Department, MT
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes WIC, MT
District 6 HRDC, MT
Fort Belknap WIC, MT
Gallatin City-County Health Department, MT
Hill County WIC, MT
Kalispell WIC, MT
Lewis and Clark Public Health - WIC, MT

Northeast Montana (Region 18) WIC Program, MT
Northern Cheyenne WIC Agency, MT
Park County Montana WIC, MT
Plentywood WIC Agency, MT
Ravalli County WIC, MT
Douglas County Health Department, NE
Family Health Services Inc., NE
Family Service WIC, NE
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, NV
Washoe County Health District, NV
Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack
Counties Inc., NH
Goodwin Community Health Center, NH
Southern New Hampshire Service Inc., NH
Southwestern Community Services WIC, NH
Norwescap WIC Program, NJ
Ocean County Health Department, NJ
Passaic WIC Program, NJ
VNACJ WIC Program, NJ
VNAHG WIC Program, NJ
Pueblo of San Felipe WIC Nutrition Program, NM
Santo Domingo WIC Program, NM
Anthony Jordan WIC, NY
Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, NY
Bronx Breastfeeding Coalition, NY
Brownsville Multiservice Family Health Center. NY
Brownsville Community Development
Corporation, NY
Catholic Charities Jamestown WIC Office, NY
Catholic Charities of Buffalo, NY
Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene
Counties, NY

Catholic Charities of Western New York, NY
Cattaraugus County WIC, NY
Cayuga County WIC, NY
Clinton County Health Department WIC Program, NY
Cohen Children's Medical Center LIJ WIC Program, NY
Community Health Center of the North Country WIC Program, NY
Cornerstone Family Healthcare, NY
East Side WIC Program, NY
Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc., NY
Greater Opportunities, NY
Hamilton County Public Health WIC Program, NY
Harlem Hospital WIC, NY
Hudson River HealthCare WIC Program, NY
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, NY
Lincoln Hospital, NY
Long Island FQHC WIC program, NY
Madison County WIC, NY
Montefiore New Rochelle WIC Program, NY
Morris Heights Health Center WIC, NY
Morrissania WIC Program, NY
North Country Family Health Center, NY
NYC Breastfeeding Leadership Council, Inc., NY
NYC H+H| WOODHULL aka North Brooklyn Health Network, NY
NYCH+H Elmhurst WIC Program, NY
Open Door Family Medical Centers WIC Program, NY
Opportunities for Chenango, Inc., NY
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc., NY
Ryan Health, NY
Saratoga County EOC - WIC Program, NY
Society for the Protection & Care of Children, NY
St. Barnabas WIC Program, NY
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, NY
Staten Island University Hospital, Northwell Health, NY
The Stony Brook WIC Program, NY
Tioga Opportunities, Inc., NY
Washington County WIC, NY
Whitney Young WIC, NY
Appalachian District Health Department, NC
Cabarrus Health Alliance, NC
Columbus County WIC, NC
Cleveland County WIC Program, NC
Dare County Department of Health and Human Services, NC
Forsyth County WIC Program, NC
Jones County Health Department- WIC, NC
Mecklenburg County Public Health WIC, NC
Montgomery County WIC Program, NC
Pender County WIC program, NC
Randolph County WIC Program, NC
Stanly County WIC Program, NC
Stokes County Health Department, NC
Surry County Health & Nutrition Center, NC
Union County WIC, NC
Adams County, ND
Central Valley Health District, ND
City County Health District, ND
Custer Health WIC Program, ND
First District Health Unit, ND
Grand Forks County WIC Program, ND

Lake Region WIC, ND
Lake Region WIC Program, ND
McIntosh County WIC, ND
Minot Airforce Base WIC, ND
Nelson/Grigg WIC Program, ND
Pembina County WIC, ND
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe WIC Program, ND
Walsh County WIC, ND
Allen County WIC Program, OH
Clermont County Public Health, OH
Holmes County General Health District, OH
Mercy Health Trumbull County WIC, OH
Sandusky County Public Health, OH
Washington/Morgan Counties WIC, OH
Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department WIC Program, OH
Citizen Potawatomi Nation, OK
Clackamas County WIC Program, OR
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs WIC, OR
Lincoln County Oregon WIC Program, OR
Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center. OR
Broad Top Area Medical Center, Inc. WIC, PA
Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, PA
A Care New England Hospital WIC, RI
Children's Friend, RI
South Carolina DHEC WIC, SC
Edmunds County Public Health, SD
Knox County Health Department, TN
Abilene-Taylor County WIC Program, TX
Atascosa Health Center WIC, TX
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa WIC, TX
Collin County Health Care WIC, TX
El Paso County WIC Program, TX
Wellness Pointe, TX
UT Health WIC, TX
UT Health Science Center Houston – WIC, TX
UTHSC of Houston WIC Program, TX
Vida Y Salud Health Sys. Inc., WIC LA19, TX
Utah County Health Department WIC Program, UT
Tooele County Health Department WIC, UT
Vermont WIC Program, VT
Chesterfield WIC Program, VA
Columbia Valley Community Health WIC, WA
Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties, WA
CHI Franciscan WIC Belfair, WA
Adams County Health Department, WA
Colville Confederated Tribes, WA
Eastgate WIC/MSS, WA
Kaiser Permanente WIC, WA
Kent Public Health, WA
Klickitat County Health Department, WA
Northshore Public Health at Totem Lake, WA
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic WIC, WA
Public Health - Seattle & King County, WA
Puyallup Tribal Health Authority, WA
Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, WA
West Central Community Center WIC, WA
Whidbey Naval Air Station WIC, WA
Whitman County Health Department, WA
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, WA
Central WV WIC, WV

Monongalia County Health Department Nutrition
Services WIC Program, WV

MOV WIC, WV

Randolph Elkins Health Department WIC, WV

Shenandoah Valley WIC, WV

TSN EMS WIC, WV

TSN/WIC Program, WV

Valley Health WIC Program, WV

Columbia County WIC, WI

Dodge County WIC, WI

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., WI

Health & Nutrition Service of Racine, Inc., WI

La Crosse County WIC, WI

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, WI

Pierce County Public Health, WI

Public Health Madison & Dane County, WI

Oconto County Health & Human Services, WI

Risk County WIC, WI

Sheboygan County WIC, WI

St. Croix County Public Health/WIC, WI

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, WI

Wood County WIC, WI

Washburn County Health Department WIC, WI

Washington Ozaukee WIC in the State of
Wisconsin, WI

Winnebago County, WI

Albany County WIC, WY

Livingston-Wyoming WIC, WY