## USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF WIC PARTICIPANTS

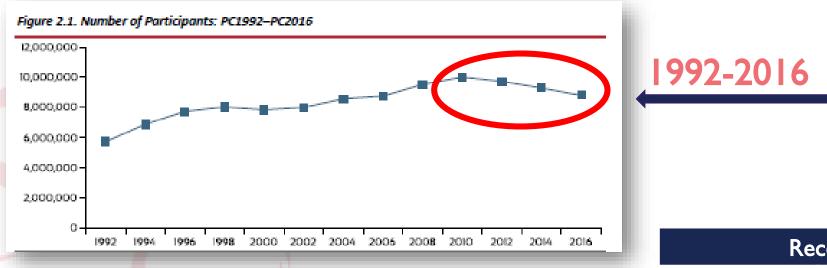
ELISABET EPPES, NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION CHUCK HAJJ, MEREDITH FOUNDRY 360 2019 TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 18, 2019



National WIC Association

Your child has you. And you have WIC.

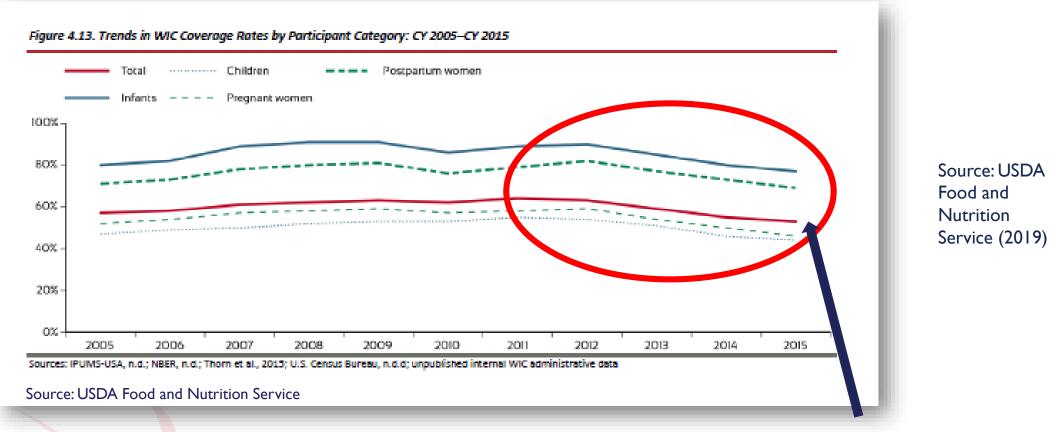
## WIC CASELOADS ARE DECLINING NATIONALLY



Recent WIC Participation			
FY 2014	8.258 million		
FY 2015	8.023 million		
FY 2016	7.696 million		
FY 2017	7.286 million		
FY 2018	6.870 million		

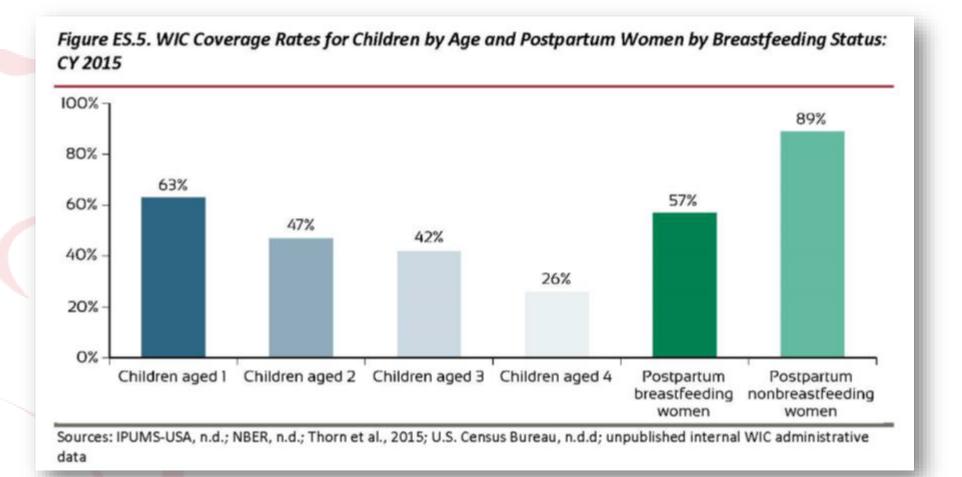
Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service

## WIC COVERAGE RATES ARE ALSO DECLINING



2015 overall coverage rate: 52.7%

## WIC COVERAGE: UNMET NEED



Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2019)

## WIC COVERAGE: UNMET NEED

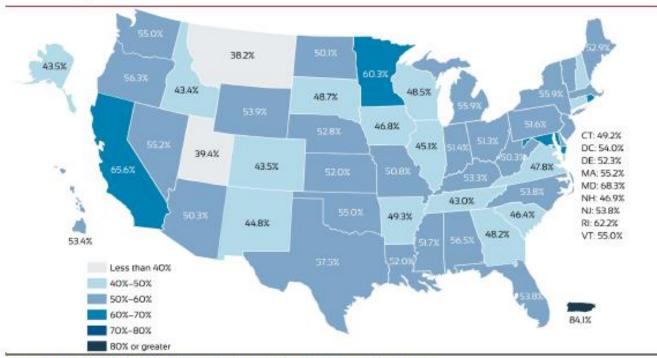


Figure ES.4. WIC Coverage Rate for Total Eligible Individuals by State: CY 2016 National Coverage Rate: 54.5 Percent

> Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2019)

Sources: IPUMS-USA, n.d.; NBER, n.d.b; U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.d; unpublished internal WIC administrative data

## WHY ARE CASELOADS AND COVERAGE DECLINING?

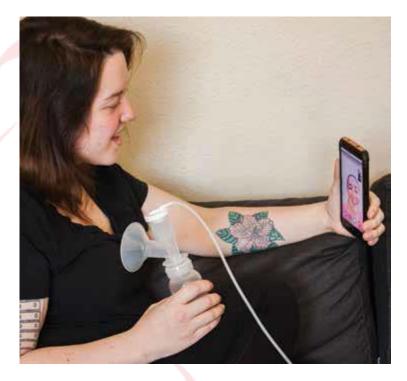
### Macro issues: Changes in:

- Birthrates
- The economy
- Other benefit programs
- Natural disasters
- Federal immigration policies

### Micro issues:

- Perception: Lack of awareness/ understanding; pride; not knowing who qualifies; thinking someone needs it more
- Experience: Pain points such as the shopping and clinic experiences; feeling the value of the food package is too low
- Practical barriers: Getting to the clinic at least once every three months can be difficult

## WHAT KIND OF WIC DO MILLENNIAL PARENTS WANT AND NEED?

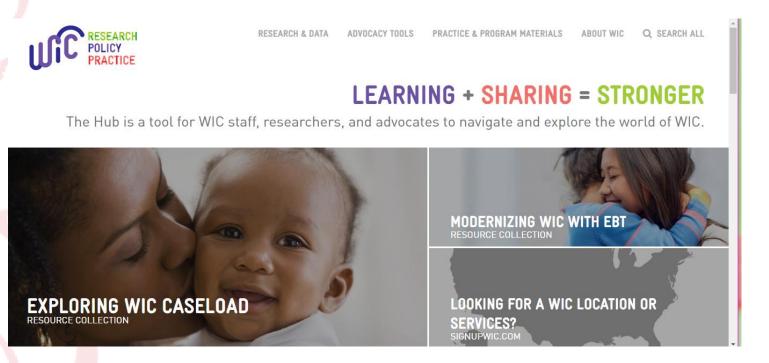


Source: California WIC Association, 2018

- Qualitative research from the last several years indicates that millennial moms prioritize:
  - Flexibility
  - Choice
  - Convenience
  - Nonjudgment

## INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE THE WIC EXPERIENCE

You can find resources relating to many of the innovations discussed today on NWA's brand-new Research, Policy, and Practice Hub! <u>https://thewichub.org/</u>



## A QUICK NOTE ABOUT EBT...





Source: NY WIC, 2019

## ONLINE AND APP-BASED NUTRITION EDUCATION AND SHOPPING HELP



Online and/or app-based nutrition education

- Can be done at home or in waiting room
- Studies show online nutrition ed. is accepted as much as in-person
- Shopping apps or apps that include a shopping component.
- Online ordering of WIC foods
  - Pick-up "basket" of WIC foods in store
  - Still in pilot stage

## TEXTING

- One-way texting for:
  - Appointment reminders
  - Reminders of when benefits expire
  - Nutrition education messages
  - Breastfeeding support
  - Two-way texting
    - Mostly used by breastfeeding peer counselors



Source:Vermont WIC, 2017

## VIDEO CONFERENCING/ TELEHEALTH



Source: California WIC Association, 2018

- Used more extensively in healthcare
- At least 10 states use video conferencing in WIC to:
  - Conduct WIC appointments remotely
  - Connect moms in the clinic with IBCLCs in remote locations
  - Overcome language barriers
  - Provide moms with 24/7 IBCLC support
- Research indicates WIC moms perceive WIC counseling via video chat as useful as in-person
- USDA-FNS's telehealth grant

## ONLINE OR APP-BASED PORTALS/APPLICATIONS

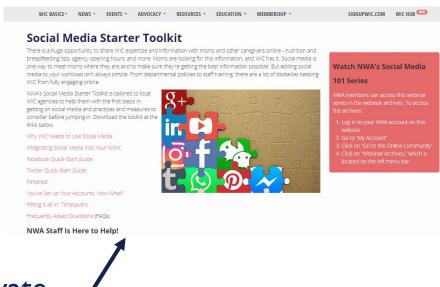
- Online portals for participants to:
  - Request appointments
  - Upload documents
  - Etc.
- Online pre-screening tools
- Integrated online applications for SNAP, Medicaid, etc. Also known as "gateway" systems
  - Not many of these systems include WIC
  - CO, PA, and MI are some examples that do include WIC

	Which Benefits Would Your Household		
> 1 Start	Like to Apply For?		
2 People	The first step is to tell us which benefits <b>your household</b> would like to get by checking the bo for each benefit your household would like to apply for. Later you will have the opportunity to select specific programs for each person in your home as you complete the application. Click		
3 Assets	Next button at the bottom of the page to continue.		
4 Income	Medical Assistance (including Health First Colorado (Colorado Medicaid), CHP+, Tax Credits, and Cost Sharing Reductions) <u>Show Details</u> Food Assistance <u>Show Details</u>		
5 Bills	Colorado Works / TANF - Cash Assistance for Families with Dependent Children Show Details Adult Financial - Cash Assistance for disabled or individuals over the age of 60		
6 Submit	Show Details Child Care Assistance (CCCAP) <u>Show Details</u> Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) for first-time moms <u>Show Details</u> Head Start <u>Show Details</u> SafeCare Colorado <u>Show Details</u>		
	<ul> <li>Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Hide Details</li> <li>You can participate in WIC if you:         <ul> <li>Meet income guidelines or are enrolled in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), Colorado Works/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Assistance/SNAP.</li> <li>Live in Colorado</li> <li>Are pregnant or a new mom</li> <li>Have a child younger than 5 years of age</li> </ul> </li> <li>What does WIC offer?</li> <li>Free, healthy food using an eWIC debit card</li> <li>Personalized nutrition consultation</li> <li>Breastfeeding information, support, and breast pumps</li> <li>Referrals to family health and other community services</li> </ul>		
Source: Colorado			

## SOCIAL MEDIA

#### For recruitment purposes

- Facebook is most common.Also:
  - Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube
- Leverage networks of existing participants
- Use to debunk rumors, stereotypes
- Some agencies have used Facebook to host private groups, e.g., lactation support groups
- Check out NWA's new Social Media Starter / Toolkit: <u>https://www.nwica.org/social-media-toolkit</u>



## LAUNCHING DIGITAL TOOLS FOR WIC PARTICIPANTS

- NWA published a toolkit earlier this year that provides info on participant-facing tools such as the ones described here. It provides guidance on:
  - The types of digital tools for WIC participants available and how they can be helpful.
  - Evaluating the important choices to consider before purchasing digital tools.
- Full of helpful case studies and templates that have been used by other WIC agencies in the procurement, maintenance, and improvement of digital tools.
  - <u>https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/launching-new-digital-tools-for-wic-participants</u>



Launching New Digital Tools for WIC Participants



### NATIONAL SOLUTION TO AID WITH CASELOAD DECLINE

#### National WIC Association Recruitment & Retention National Media Campaign

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase enrollment of WIC eligible moms
- Retains moms and children in the WIC program
- Increase positive perception of WIC
- Create national brand recognition



### YOU GOT THIS, MOM.

#### And we're here to help.

WIC is a nutrition program that provides moms and children with healthy food, breastfeeding support, and other benefits.

#### LEARN MORE

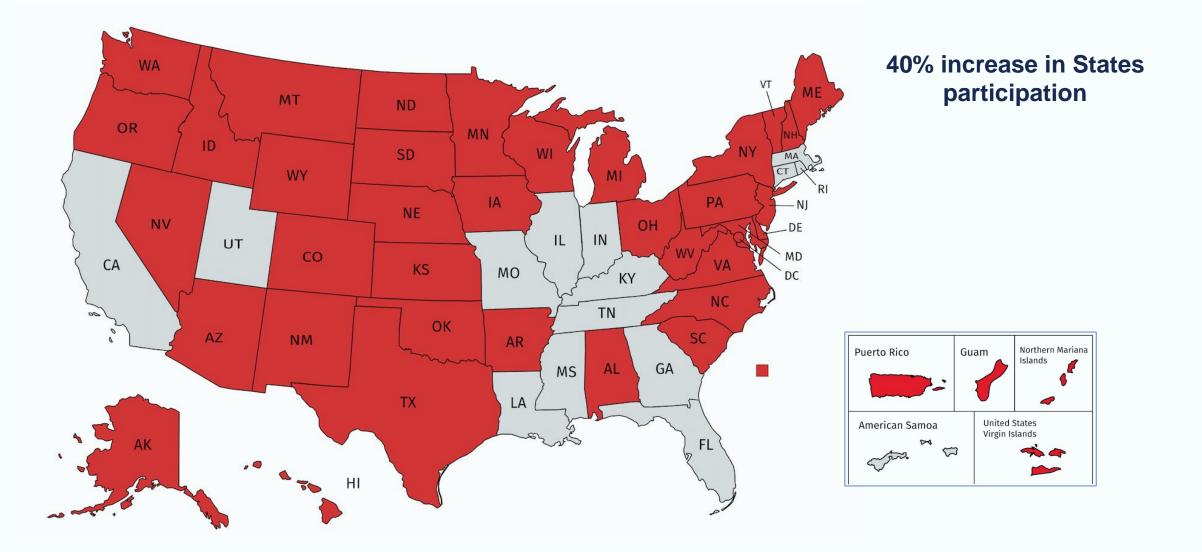




Based on qualitative research from the past 5 years, WIC agencies have begun to focus their messages on:

- Empowerment
- Community
- Non-food package aspects of WIC
- Long-term benefits

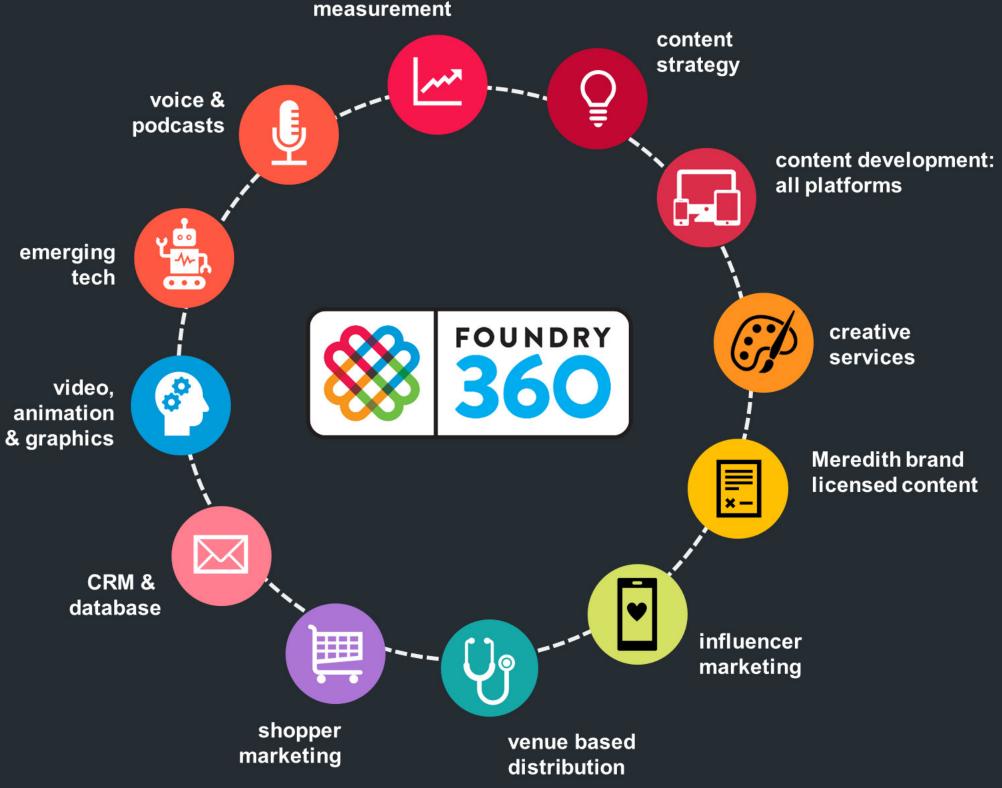
### **R&R Campaign: Participating States**



## Using Technology: Best Practices for WIC Recruitment & Retention

2019 Recruitment & Retention National Media Campaign

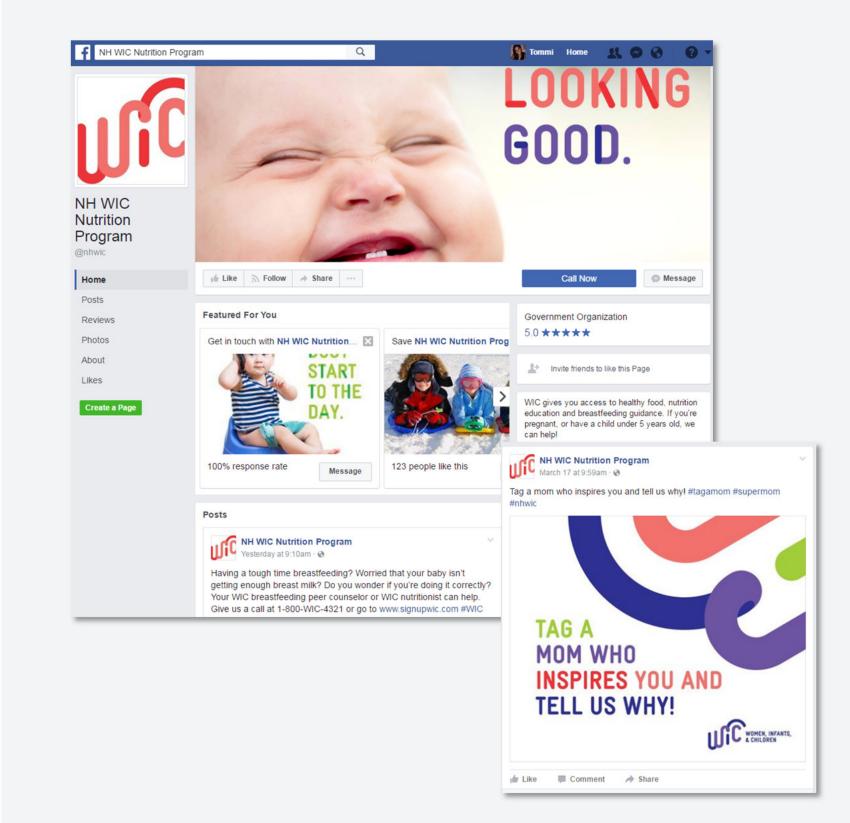
providing engagement & utility through a full suite of services



## NWA Recruitment & Retention National Media Campaign

### **Objectives**

- Increase enrollment of WIC
   eligible moms
- Retains moms and children in the WIC program
- Increase positive perception of WIC
- Create national brand recognition







National WIC Association September 10, 2016 · @	<b>X</b> ×
Moms can be superheroes too. At WIC, we have the resources, knowledge, an tools to help you soar, #supermom #WIC	d
NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES.	
🖆 Like 🔲 Comment 🍌 Share	
<b>(1) ○ 3</b> 451	Top Comments *
570 shares	
Write a comment	0

#### **Local Activation Toolkit**



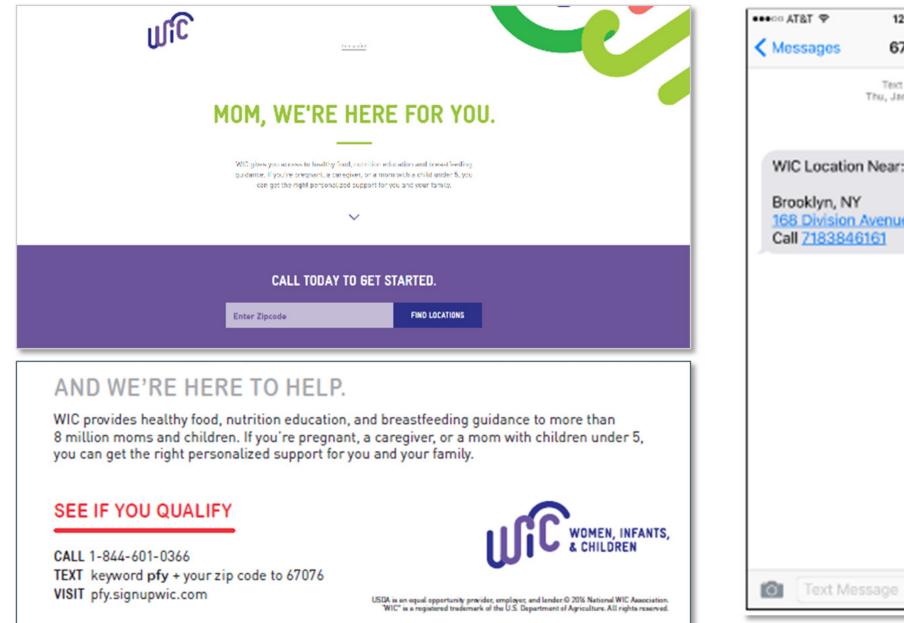
#### **Targeted E-Blasts**





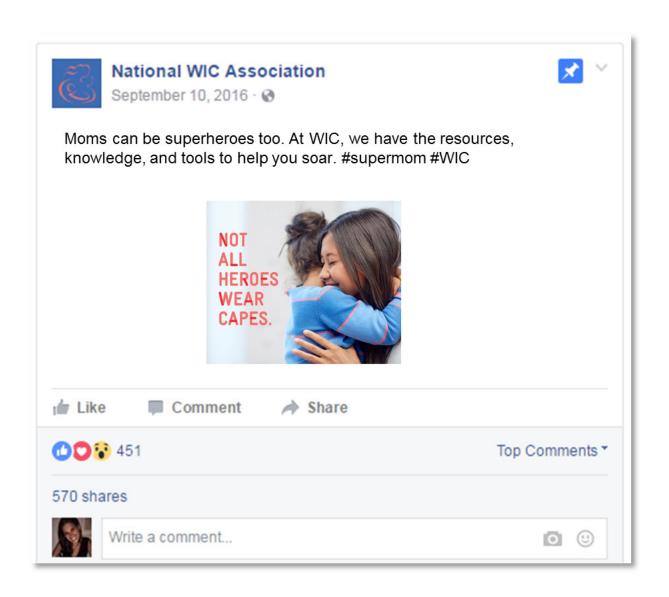
## Central Website & Text to Enroll

### SignUpWIC.com, 1-844-601-0366 and Text-to-Enroll



12:35 PM	@ <b>1 0</b> % 84% 💼 > +
670-76	Details
xt Message Jan G, 11:23 A	м
	Parents1 11249
ır: 11249	
ue,	
0	Send
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## Local Activation Toolkit



#### **Print Advertisements**

 Printer-ready files for advertisements for participating states to be placed locally by individual agencies in their territories (provided in English and Spanish)

#### Posters:

• Printer-ready files for posters that are ready to be printed and displayed in local venues (provided in English and Spanish)

#### Facebook Posts:

- 104 total Facebook posts in English and Spanish developed in2018 for agencies to use throughout the year to promote WIC services and content (quarterly roll-out)
- Included high-res images featuring layered copy designed in the official WIC font
- At least 26 additional posts to come 2019

#### Videos:

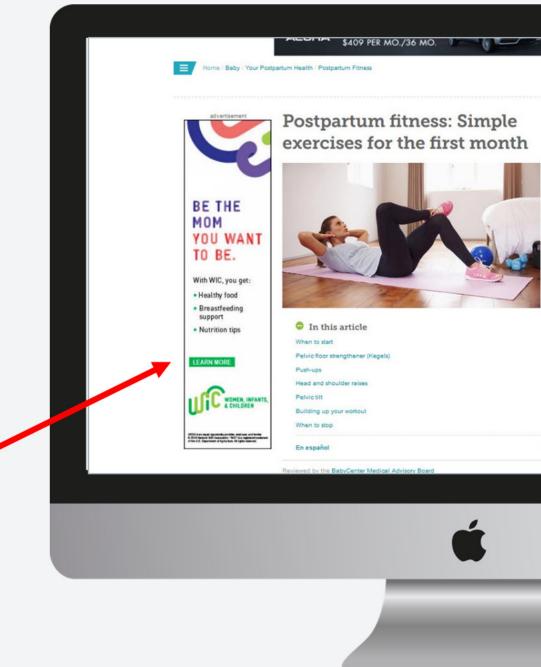
- Developed 6 English videos and 6 Spanish videos in 2018
- 10 total videos available in 2019

#### Instructions:

• Detailed instructions for each component so local WIC employees know how to best use each toolkit component

## **Digital Advertising**

A programmatic campaign that defines and targets the WIC audience across digital channels through multiple tactics (including behavioral targeting, remarketing and social), and drives moms along the path to enrollment.



#### EXPLORE NOW





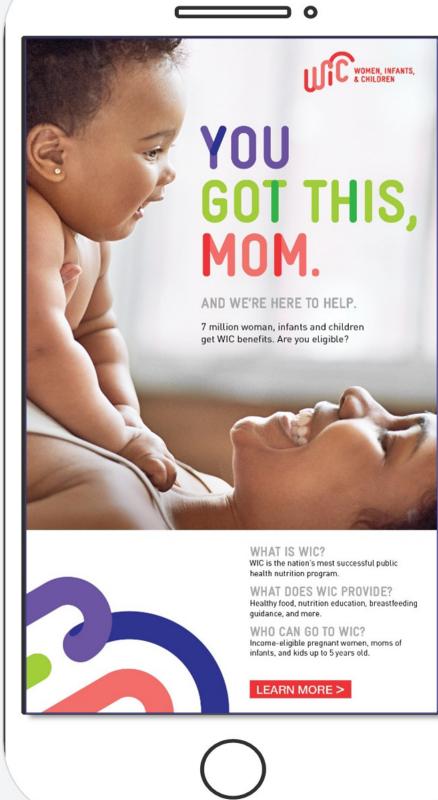


Parenthood: The mini musical See all pregnancy, parenting, and birth videos >



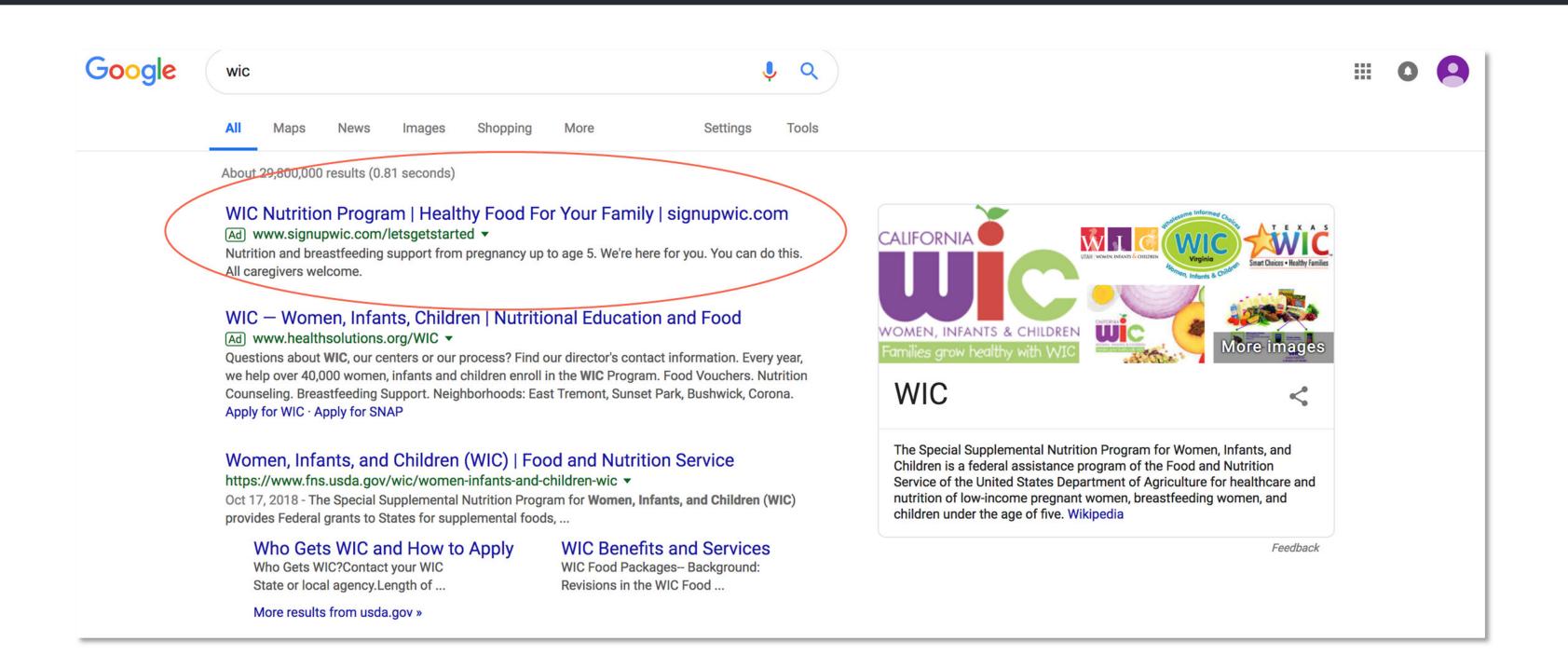
## **Targeted E-Blasts**

Targeted E-Blasts are delivered to low income expectant moms and moms with children under the age of 5 years old in the household.





## Search Engine Marketing



## Social Influencer Program MomSquad



Process

## E-Newsletter

Meredith has developed an HTMLenabled newsletter that NWA will send to participating states on a quarterly basis.

E-newsletter material varies by quarter, but usually includes:

- campaign analytics
- updates
- tips
- & promising practices

A version of this newsletter will also be added to the local activation toolkit in the coming months.

Tips, ideas, and inspiration Dic Local Ac your s	I for getting the most out of our Local Activation Too MART IDEA d you know that you can download images from the tivation Toolkit and use them however you would like of social media accounts? The toolkit is available via the nline Community to all those from a participating state.	olkit.
West Virginia WIC jus all WIC branded! See how and style guide both or Check out the Discussio	PIRATION st launched a <b>new website</b> — w they used the WIC font, colors, nline and for printed materials. n page on the NWA Online Com- ners are utilizing the branding.	
5	WHAT'S NEW There are a few more months left in this year campaign—be on the lookout for some new addit the Toolkit. New Facebook posts and customizabl Strong brochures and posters are available no Reminder: Some states will not have access to the NWA On Community after 12/31/18. States continuing to participate in the will receive a newsletter with relevant announcements in Jan	411
WHO'S GOING TO S	FACTS + FIGURES IGNUPWIC.COM? How visitors are accessing the	t t
<b>352,000</b> people site in	e visited the the last year DESKTOP 81%	(
<b>210,000</b> reque: info (6	sted local WIC office 0% of all visitors)	
<b>210,000</b> reque: info (6	28/	
<b>210,000</b> reque info (6	28/	

#### CHECK IT OUT

ICH LIFEI

Here's an example of one of our sponsored Facebook posts, used to increase awareness and sign-ups. And check out this WIC **native content** appearing on Parents.com.

#### IMAGE RIGHTS

t a reminder that the **images available in the Local Activation Toolkit** are digital use only. You're free to post them on your website, social channels, and other digital medium. If you're interested in publishing them in print materials signs, brochures, or billboards, please **contact NWA Communications**.

#### FONT FOR YOUR USE

LIKE THIS FONT? It's called Gravur Condensed, and we've purchased a limited number of licenses for its use. **Register here** to download the font. If you don't plan to use the font regularly, please do not download it. Please limit your downloads to one person per agency.

#### CONTACT US

Ve're seeing a lot of great traffic to signupwic.com, and we want to keep he info there as current as possible. If you have updates to your agency on signupwic.com, please fill out **this form.** 

Vant a new look for your agency? Buy new business cards and appointment eminder cards on our new **online ordering platform.** You can also **order folders rom us!** And if you'd like a logo for your local agency and can't find it in your online community, **let us know**.

Questions, comments, or suggestions about the Local Activation Toolkit or the national campaign? Email us at **campaign@nwica.org**.



## Facebook & Instagram Pages

Goal: Position WIC as a trusted source in a positive light via Facebook and Instagram.

This will solidify the emotional connection with WIC and take advantage of the social word-ofmouth component that can be essential to spreading WIC's ethos, information and reputation.



## Paid Social Media

### **Sponsored Facebook Posts**

- Highly targeted "Sponsored Posts" •
- Reaching low income expectant • and new moms
  - We are still able to reach this demographic with a HHI under \$40,000
- In both English and Spanish ٠
- Promoting WIC enrollment within • the Facebook feed



National WIC Association Sponsored ·

Less hunger, less illness, better health.





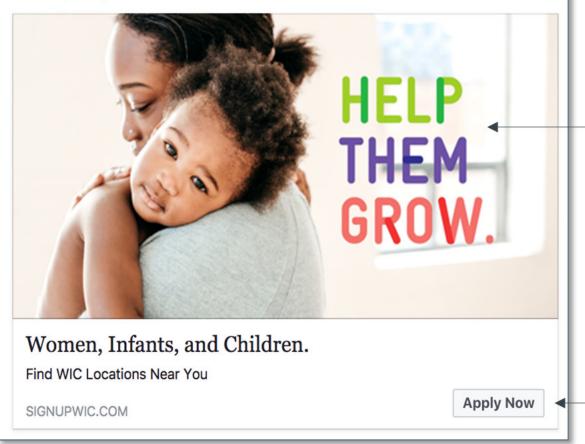
## Paid Facebook Media Testing

## Breakdown of a Sponsored Post

### **Social Copy**

Ē National WIC Association National Wic Association May 30 · 🚱

Because your family comes first, let us support you in their development with expert guidance and nutrition.





### Headline

### **Call To Action**

## Which Post Resonated Better?

 $\sim$ 



National WIC Association Written by MXM [?] · June 15 at 8:00am · ③

Be the superhero they see in you. Tap into our resources for your family's health and nutrition.



Women, Infants, and Children Find WIC Locations Near You

Apply Now





Women, Infants, and Children I Find WIC Locations Near You			
SIGNUPW	IC.COM		
Like	Comment	A Share	

SIGNUPWIC.COM



## WIC Facebook Testing

### Social Copy: Empowerment vs. Helping Hand (Tests 1-4)

#### **Empowerment Messages:**

#### Headline:

- 1. Invincible!
- 2. Nothing is Impossible

#### Social Copy:

- You can do this. We can help. We'll provide the guidance and financial support that you and your baby deserve.
- Because your family comes first, let us support you in their development with nutrition and expert guidance.
- Be the superhero they see in you. Tap into our available resources for your family's health and nutrition.

### **Helping Hand Messages:**

#### Headline:

- We're Here to Help
- 2. Set Them Up For Life

#### Social Copy:

- WIC provides a community of support to help your family get the healthy food it needs.
- Contact us to receive food. nutritionists' guidance, and other free services for you and your family.
- Their well-being is our priority, too. Let us help your family grow healthy and strong with nutritious food and expert guidance.

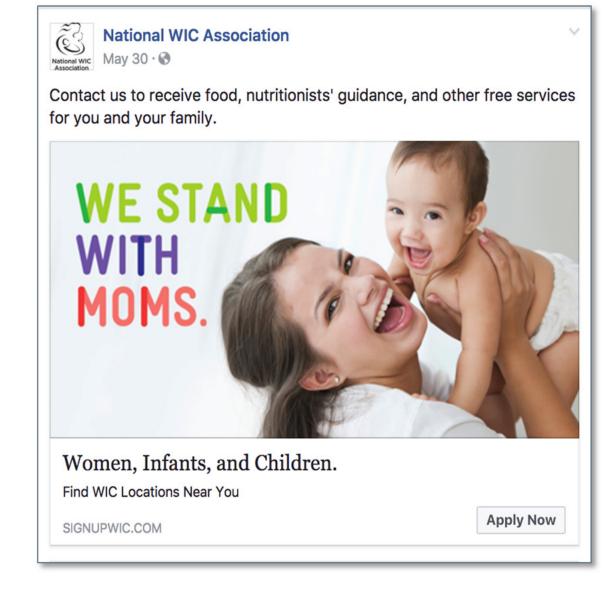






#### **Results:** Empowerment message performed significantly better

## WIC Facebook Testing



#### Test 5: Call to Action

- Learn More vs. Apply Now •
- <u>**Result:**</u> "Apply Now" performed significantly better •

### Test 6: Emojis in Social Copy vs. No Emojis

**Result:** The social copy without emojis performed better ٠

### Test 7: Image of Just Child vs. Image of Mom and Child

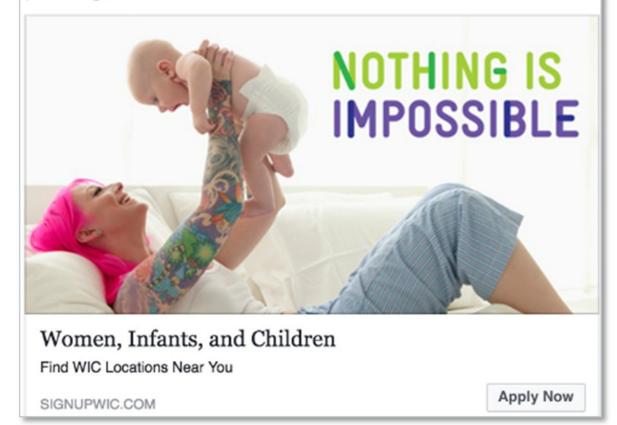
Result: Image of Mom and Child performed significantly better •

## WIC Facebook Testing



National WIC Association June 29 at 2:48pm · 🕅

Your family grows stronger and healthier with our nutritional support and parental guidance.



#### **Test 8: WIC Fact vs. General Copy**

- WIC Fact: WIC helps kids prepare for school: kids who've • received WIC benefits show improved intellectual development.
- General Copy: We care about fueling healthier families. •

### Test 9: WIC Fact vs. WIC Mom Testimonial

- WIC Fact: WIC has been shown to yield better birth outcomes; • increase key nutrients in the diet; and help ensure adequate growth and development.
- WIC Mom Testimonial: "WIC has meant support in my journey • to becoming a mom" - WIC Participant, FL.





# Thank you!

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