

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- State and National Updates - Kate
- Shutdown lessons learned - Kate
- WIC LA funding - Kate
- Hardware Transition - Tami
- Outreach Text Messaging - Tina

State and National Updates- Kate

We want to acknowledge and celebrate that we are meeting under different circumstances. The shutdown ends after 43 days. Thank you for your patience and partnership during the past weeks. We will transition back to our monthly calls on the third Wednesday of the month.

The Federal government provided an appropriation bill for the department of agriculture and for most other federal agencies a Continuing Resolution (CR) through January 30, 2026. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 the funding level for WIC is \$8.2 billion, which is higher than last year and what was requested. Participation continues to rise nationally, and MN is also experiencing a slow increase in caseload. The bill refills the WIC contingency funds for future situations, if necessary. It maintains current expanded WIC fruit and vegetable benefits. A rider on the bill keeps fluid milk issuance at levels set prior to 2024 Final Food Package Rule for the next year. This holds this level steady for the FFY. We are learning what this means for cheese and yogurt amounts. The bill required a few studies, one to research how 'buy American' for WIC and SNAP could look, and second for USDA to look at the WIC Infant formula rebate landscape and study the levels in relation to how things have changed since 2022. MN was procuring a rebate during the time of the formula shortage. MN procured a high formula rebate that we have for five years. It will be good to analyze information from across the country. MN WIC relies on revenue from the rebate to help cover food costs.

Other Program Updates

WIC LA funding letters and claims – Kate

For WIC funding for Oct. 2025 during the shutdown, we provided approximately 1/12 of local agency's grant award. When submitting your October claim, submit all expenses like your agency would normally. We are expecting a grant summary from USDA for our full year FFY26 budget soon. Once we have our annual grant summary, we can make decisions about local agency funding awards for the full year. We anticipate local agency WIC funding letters to go out by early December. FNS Midwest Regional office staff were furloughed during the shutdown and are working again which should help in the process.

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a notice of proposed rulemaking outlining a plan to rescind the 2022 rulemaking that clarified and narrowed the definition of public charge. NWA issued a statement yesterday through a Washington Update:

- “This is a proposed rule. No changes go into effect while DHS reviews public comments and considers final regulation.
- NWA recognizes that changes in immigration policy can create confusion or concern for families. We want to be clear about what this proposal does and does not change for WIC. We want to be clear that WIC’s role remains unchanged under this proposal and does not impact access to WIC programs and services. We will provide more information as this progresses.”

Shutdown lessons learned – Kate

We want to gather feedback from you on how we responded to the federal government shutdown. Internally we’re gathering lessons learned, please complete the [Local Agency Feedback on MDH WIC Program's Support During the Federal Government Shutdown](#) survey with your feedback by December 1, 2025.

Hardware Transition – Tami

Last year we announced a hardware change that with the new grant cycle beginning January 2027, MDH WIC will no longer provide hardware for local agencies. It takes time to make this transition, and we are putting information out now so agencies can make adjustments. The first week of December, information will be shared with agencies that lays out a plan for support of hardware. About seventy five percent of agencies have already made a shift to locally owned hardware. Other agencies will need to move in this direction or take over their current state hardware. The guidance will share action steps for agencies and a timeline.

Current hardware will be split among agencies. All agencies will sign an agreement to support their own hardware including signature pads, scanners, and docking stations. After the point of the transition, agencies can buy and support their own equipment. Watch for the memo coming out in early December about the process.

Reminder. Infoview will be unavailable. Due to security issues, Gainwell will be updating Infoview to version 4.3. Infoview will be **unavailable between Wednesday, Nov. 19, 8:00 p.m. – Monday, Nov. 24, 7:00 a.m.** See [WINNIE the Scoop Newsletter](#) for details.

Outreach Text Messaging – Tina

During the shutdown we paused the quarterly outreach text message efforts. These messages will resume Monday, Nov. 24, and will be spread out daily over 5 weeks. No texts will be sent on Nov. 27 or 28.

Questions & Answers

Was federal funding for NSA funds the same as last year or increased/decreased?

We don’t know yet. The appropriation was 8.2 billion. USDA will set aside funds to continue to fund WIC and the peer breastfeeding program and allocate funds to WIC state agencies. We anticipate this will soon be communicated to state agencies.

Will there be a stipend for local agencies to purchase their own equipment?

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Many agencies have already moved in this direction, and we are allowing the opportunity for peripherals and other equipment to be taken over by local agencies. We will not provide a stipend. You can use your WIC grant for equipment purchases.

Are the outreach text messages still only going out on Mondays?

The text messages start on Mondays and are spread out every day for 5 weeks.

Can you review the studies that USDA is wanting to do?

The appropriation bill required studies that USDA must complete: one to research how 'buy American' for WIC and SNAP could work, and second for USDA to look at the WIC Infant formula rebate landscape and study the rebate levels in relation to how things have changed since 2022.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

Local Agency Feedback on MDH WIC Program's Support During the Federal Government Shutdown Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QBM9MKK>)

WINNIE the Scoop Newsletter

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/infosystem/thescoop.html>)

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program, 625 Robert St N, PO BOX 64975, ST PAUL MN 55164-0975; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; to obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942.

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