

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- National Updates - Tami
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Transition to in-person services – Rebecca
- Risk Factor Changes – Tami
- Reminder to complete the LA Hardware Survey – Tami
- Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) Nursing Nest – Rosie
- 2024 Conference: Save the Date – Carole
- Updated Outreach Brochures – Tina
- Last day for Formula Substitutes – Jessie
- HyVee Issue Erin/Jessie
- WINNE timeline - Tami

National Updates- Tami

Congress is on August recess this month and members are back in their home states. That leaves a lot of work on annual appropriations for Congress to address in September. We are hearing that the likelihood of a Continuing Resolution for October 1st is higher. Estimates for the funding needed to support the growing participation nationwide point to the need for additional funding for the WIC Program in federal fiscal year 2024. This could occur through a number of actions, but we are in a wait and see mode for now.

As a reminder, we are also awaiting extended authorization for the higher level of CVB for WIC families beginning October 1st. We have plans for raising the CVB for families as of October 1st if/when it is authorized. We appreciate your patience again with this uncertainty.

Other Program Updates

Transition to in-person Services – Rebecca

We wanted to acknowledge the transition we've just passed with the COVID-19 WIC waivers expiring on August 9 and the new ARPA WIC waivers starting on August 10. We realize many agencies had already begun offering in-person services but that many agencies needed to make this transition with the ARPA waivers. Thank you for the commitment to make these changes in your WIC services and for all the work you do with WIC families!

Risk Factor Changes – Tami

Refer to [Nutrition Risk Factor Updates](#) for a complete summary.

LA Hardware Survey reminder – Tami

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Please complete your hardware survey by August 31. For more information, please refer to the [Local Agency Hardware Survey](#) document that went out August 2.

TPT Nursing Nest – Rosie

Spread the word that Minnesota WIC is sponsoring the TPT nursing nest at the State Fair! Share this resource with others and be sure to visit the Twin Cities PBS Nursing Nest, during the Minnesota State Fair (Aug. 24-Sept. 4, 2023).

Participants can find this information in the WIC app under “Breastfeeding Info” or on the [WIC Breastfeeding Resources](#) page.

Find us and other dedicated nursing and pumping spaces using the [Map - A hungry baby needs to eat anytime, anywhere](#). Contact Rosie for questions at Rosie.Pierce-Martin@state.mn.us

If you visit please take pictures and tag us on social media

For Facebook - @Minnesota WIC

For Instagram - @minnesotawic

And use the hashtag #TPTWICNursingNest and watch this hashtag for photos throughout the fair.

Thank you for spreading the word about the Nursing Nest!

2024 Conference: Save the Date – Carole

Date and location confirmed: Thursday, September 26, 2024, 8:30-5:00 pm at the [Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington – Minneapolis South](#). The theme will be **Step into the Future of WIC**. Information will be updated on the [MN WIC 2024 Training Conference](#) page over the next year. For questions about the conference, reach out to carole.kelinhofer@state.mn.us or your state consultant.

Updated Outreach Brochures – Tina

The outreach brochures are updated and now ready for order from Brush Art. The brochures are two-sided with English available on one side and Spanish, Somali, Karen, and Hmong on the other side. QR codes on front that point to the WIC application and inside for income. You can view the brochures on the [WIC Communications and Outreach](#) page.

Last Day for formula Substitutes – Jessie

All formula substitutions, including medical formula, end this month. August 27 is the last day for participants to use their WIC benefits for any substitute formulas.

We will send the following My MN WIC App notification to participants Saturday, Aug. 19:

Subject: Formula Substitutions End

Message: IMPORTANT! Aug. 27 is the last day to use your WIC benefits for any substitute formulas. After that, you will need to purchase the formula and can size listed on your benefits. This includes medical formula.

Link: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/formulachange.html>

We are working to update website content to reflect the changes and will share more ahead of August 27.

Hy-Vee Issue – Erin/Jessie

Hy-Vee has some issues with their Point of Sale System. Refer to WU for details, [HyVee Checkout Issues](#). Hy-Vee shares this should be fixed in 3-4 weeks.

WINNIE Timeline – Tami

For information about WINNIE rollout, WINNIE newsletters and the WINNIE readiness Guide, go to the [WINNIE Information System](#) page.

Questions & Answers

I have had community partners ask for digital files for outreach brochures. Is it okay to share the link with them?

Yes.

Any posters with the QR codes?

Currently the posters do not have QR codes, however we will be working on updating posters as a next step and adding QR codes.

We are hearing/seeing a low/no supply of EnfaCare in stores in the past few weeks (standard size), is this widespread?

There are some pockets of low supply of formula in some areas, please order formula products from the state office if needed in your area.

Has anyone heard of issues at Cub/Target with fresh F/V such as heads of lettuce, bags of carrots, etc.?

Not currently.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

[Nutrition Risk Factor Updates](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2023/0816rf.pdf>)

[Local Agency Hardware Survey](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2023/0802hardware.pdf>)

[WIC Breastfeeding Resources](#) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/bf/morebflinks.html>)

[Map - A hungry baby needs to eat anytime, anywhere](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/bf/statefairmap.pdf>)

[Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington – Minneapolis South](#)

(<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mspbsdt-doubletree-bloomington-minneapolis-south/>)

[MN WIC 2024 Training Conference](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/24conference.html>)

[WIC Communications and Outreach](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/comm.html#NaN>)

W I C L A C O N F E R E N C E C A L L

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/formulachange.html>

[HyVee Checkout Issues](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2023/0816hyvee.pdf>)

[WINNIE Information System](#)

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

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