

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and summary notes

Agenda items:

- National updates - Kate
- MDH WIC staffing update - Kate
- WIC financial reviews - Kate
- Food package reminders - Rebecca

National updates- Kate

Related congressional updates

The House Agriculture Committee is advancing a proposal that included significant eligibility restrictions for SNAP, as well as plans to shift some program costs to state governments. The House Energy and Commerce Committee proposed cuts to Medicaid, including implementing nationwide “work requirements”. While these proposed restrictions and cuts don’t directly impact WIC, the changes to Medicaid and SNAP would indirectly effect WIC by limiting access for some individuals and families to WIC eligibility through adjunctive eligibility. This would increase the administrative burden for local agencies to determine eligibility for WIC using traditional income review.

Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program landscape scan report

The National WIC Association recently released the [Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Landscape Scan Report](#). The report draws on data from the NWA’s Farmers’ Market landscape analysis survey with responses from 32 WIC Agencies across 27 states and in-depth interviews with 26 WIC stakeholders across six states.

2025 NWA WIC Tech, Innovation, and Vendor Management Conference

This in-person conference will be held from September 3-5, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year’s theme for the conference is *Engage, Inspire, Energize: Driving WIC innovation and technology forward*.

Other program updates

MDH WIC staffing update – Kate

A few weeks ago, Federal funding cuts were announced that impacted MDH state departments. COVID pandemic funds were abruptly cut, creating a loss of positions across MDH. While these cuts didn’t directly impact WIC funds, the WIC state section staff are impacted by cascading

state layoffs. Kristen Bricko, our state Peer Breastfeeding Coordinator, is being laid off. She will be in this role until July 2. Two other staff in the training coordinator role and in the south-central state consultant roll are being affected. We are working with human resources on the adjustments to create as little disruption to workflow due to this unfortunate cascading bump in positions. This doesn't create any vacancies in state WIC positions. As we work through these adjustments, we will have additional announcements.

WIC financial review – Kate

At the beginning of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, we announced some changes to WIC grantee financial reviews. We will share the information next week in the weekly update. Kate provided these reminders:

- Federal WIC regulations require WIC grantees to have at least one financial review every two years to assure WIC funds are spent appropriately. With the start of FFY25, the WIC financial review was updated to include additional documents for review, similar to how reviews were done in the past.
- When a financial review is due for your agency, grantee administrators and WIC coordinators will be notified. Directions about the documentation needed will be included. If you have questions, please reach out to your state WIC consultant or Amy Lee at ames.lee@state.mn.us.
- The following documents are requested to support expenses claimed on the invoice. **Please share this information with your agency's fiscal staff who will complete the review.**

Documentation required from agencies:

- Time reporting to support ALL staff hours, which includes both WIC and non-WIC time. Total hours must equal 100%.
- Daily time reporting or quarterly time reporting (if not more frequent) for a minimum of no less than two consecutive weeks of WIC and non-WIC program staff time.
- Documentation of the time spent worked in each of the four WIC cost categories (program management, client services, nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion)
- Proof that payroll taxes, health insurance, retirement, workers compensation insurance, etc. have been paid.

Other cost category expenses (rent, supplies, communication, travel, interpreter fees, other etc.)

- Source documents for expenses. This includes invoices and receipts from vendors.
- Clearly indicate the program cost distribution and method used to determine the amount charged to WIC.

Food package reminders – Rebecca

Documents WIC staff need to review:

- [WINNIE Update Document -Food Package Changes](#)
 - Shared on Thursday, May 8 – MIS & Data Unit communications
 - Focus is on WINNIE functionality
- [Food Package Changes to implement on June 9](#)
 - Shared in the weekly update on May 14.
 - Focus is on helpful guidance, education tips, website information/resources and commonly asked questions and answers.

Website page – new!

- [Food package updates](#)
 - Updated materials and resources will be posted there by June 9.
 - After June 9, the shopping guide, pictorials and infant formula handout will go to their regular spot on the website. Watch for reminders in the weekly update.

For participants issued evaporated milk

- Review March 20 guidance [Evaporate Milk Follow-up - ACTION ITEM](#)

Thank you to WIC staff for reviewing these materials and your efforts at implementing these changes with participants!!

Questions & answers

Can we order any of the food package materials yet, or do we need to print them?

Yes, the [Infant formula insert](#) is available to order from Brush Art. The other items (shopping guide and pictorials) are not being printed until all food package changes are made. All these items are available electronically on the website.

After June 9 will the old milk items still be in WINNIE since families will have them on their already issued benefits? OR will staff no longer see soy milk, goat milk etc. in the prescription?

Participants with lactose-free, soy beverage, powdered, or goat milk in their food package will still see those items in their food packages. A new food prescription will need to be created with the standard milk food item (skim/1% or Whole milk) before October 31, when the non-standard milk food items become inactive. If the food prescription lists a specific milk item that is the only item they can purchase until a new food prescription is created.

Do you have any guidance for participants selecting evaporated milk that helps them understand how much they can purchase?

Yes, the shopping guide will have the following tip for those purchasing evaporated milk:

Evaporated Milk Tip: For each can of evaporated milk you buy, .18 gallon will be deducted from your benefit.

If your benefit shows this amount:	You can buy this:
1 gallon	5 cans
2 gallons	11 cans
3 gallons	16 cans
4 gallons	22 cans

Can you clarify, when do we need to put standard item in for the milk changes? Is the standard item available right now?

For standard milk food items, no changes need to be made to the current food package; the description will just be updated to include the “WIC-allowed”. WIC staff will see this change on June 9 in the information system.

It is my understanding that at some point milk amounts will decrease some. When will that happen?

This is correct. These changes will likely occur in spring of 2026.

Will the information about the other changes and timeline for items such as less juice, less milk, infant cash value benefit (cvb) amounts be posted to the food package site soon?

Other changes mentioned will occur in phases. Additional whole grain changes will tentatively be made in the Fall and all other remaining changes completed by Spring 2026.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Landscape Scan Report (<https://thewichub.org/farmers-market-nutrition-program-landscape-scan-report/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=3a015e87-4a33-4cca-b488-bdefd0ca4bf9&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=58049e2d-2e40-472e-9295-5edc68388742>)

WINNIE Update Document -Food Package Changes
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/winnie/releasedocs/fpjune2025.pdf>)

Food Package Changes to implement on June 9
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/fp/changesjune25.pdf>)

Food package updates
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/fdpkgupdts.html>)

Evaporate Milk Follow-up - ACTION ITEM
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/winnie/evaporatedmilk.pdf>)

Infant formula insert
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/fp/newformula.pdf>)

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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