

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and summary notes

Agenda items:

- National updates - Kate
- WIC grant amendments – Kate/Rebecca
- Reminder about Windows 11 and card orders - Tami
- WIC data privacy/data sharing - Kate

National updates- Kate

FY 2026 federal budget appropriations work continues in Congress to avert a government shutdown that would begin on October 1, 2025, if a funding deal is not reached. However, both Democrats and Republicans are indicating that they anticipate the need for a continuing resolution (CR) that would allow Congress additional time to finalize full-year spending deals. A CR would temporarily extend funding for federal programs based on the prior year's budget level. Last week the White House requested what's called an anomaly for WIC that would provide for full funding allowing the program to continue to serve all people seeking services during the CR period.

Potential federal government shutdown

The MDH WIC office has begun to prepare for the possibility of a federal government shutdown on October 1, if a budget or CR is not passed in time. We do not anticipate an immediate impact on the Minnesota WIC Program if a shutdown does occur. We are developing communications for various audiences including local agencies, participants, WIC vendors, and the public that are similar to what we've used in prior years when a shutdown was possible. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide communications to partners ahead of a potential government shutdown with just-in-time information.

Other program updates

WIC grant amendments – Kate/Rebecca

MDH and other state health agencies have experienced some delay in receiving federal funding for some public health programs over the last 6 months. The grant agreements we hold with WIC grantees include language regarding termination of the grant if federal funds become unavailable for the WIC Program, however the agreements do not currently include language to allow for the temporary suspension of the grant in the event of temporary lack of funding. We do not anticipate this situation in WIC; however, a suspension of the grant would be preferable to termination of a grant due to a delay in funding. This would prevent a need to have to re-establish a grant agreement for the work if MDH experiences a delay in federal funding.

WIC LOCAL AGENCY CONFERENCE CALL

In the next week you can expect an email to your administrator and the coordinator will be cc'd on the message. In that email there will be a letter sharing information like what Kate did today and then a draft of the amendment will also be included in the email. In about a week after that, signatures will be requested via DocuSign. If you do have any questions, you can reach out to rebecca.gruenes@state.mn.us.

Reminder about Windows 11 and card orders – Tami

Card orders were due on Monday, Sept. 15, and there are still 19 agencies that need to submit. As a reminder, all agencies need to submit how many cards their agency needs or if none are needed submit zero. We are unable to do emergency card orders between the quarterly orders.

State provided machines need to be upgraded to Windows 11. Some agencies still need to make this update, and we want to provide a reminder that support for Windows 10 ends in October. If you are no longer using a state-owned machine, contact the help desk for a shipping label to return it.

WIC data privacy/data sharing – Kate

Last month we sent out some information in the weekly update with reminders for agencies about [WIC Participant Data Confidentiality](#). WIC federal regulations classify WIC applicant and participant data as confidential. Federal regulations also generally prohibit the disclosure of WIC data for purposes unrelated to the administration or enforcement of the WIC program.

We have shared on this call previously about efforts underway to establish data sharing agreements with some other programs for purposes allowed in the federal regulations. That work is still underway as we pause to review and ensure any agreement language protects use of data originating from WIC for another purpose not specified in the agreement. The data sharing agreements being worked on would include programs such as Head Start, Family Home Visiting, Child and Teen Check-up, PRAMS, SNAP/MFIP, MIIC and other public health programs.

Whenever local agencies receive requests for WIC data from law enforcement, Child Protective Services, or other similar entities we want to remind agencies that generally a signed Release of Information or court order/search warrant explicitly authorizing access to the requested WIC data is required. I'd like to walk you through the information shared in the weekly update and provide a link to where this information is available on our website [WIC Participant Data Confidentiality](#). This document can also be found on the Local Agency page >> Staff Resources section >> Participant Data Confidentiality dropdown.

Questions & Answers

What would be the procedure if there is a suspension?

We don't anticipate this to occur for the WIC grant.

Just to clarify, is the amendment related to including a suspension in the grant contract if there was a government shut down?

No, the amendment is not related to the government shutdown. The grant agreements we hold with WIC grantees include language regarding termination of the grant if federal funds become unavailable for the WIC Program, however the agreements do not currently include language to allow for the temporary suspension of the grant in the event of temporary lack of funding. We do not anticipate this

situation in WIC; however, a suspension of the grant would be preferable to termination of a grant due to a delay in funding.

If there was a suspension, would we stop providing WIC services or would it mean there may be a delay in reimbursement?

We do not anticipate this situation in WIC; however, a suspension of the grant would be preferable to termination of a grant due to a delay in funding. This would prevent a need to have to re-establish a grant agreement for the work if MDH experiences a delay in federal funding.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

[WIC Participant Data Confidentiality](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/dataprivacy.pdf)

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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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