HOW WIC HELPS
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MISSION OF WIC
To assure healthy pregnancies, healthy birth outcomes and healthy growth and development for women, infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk, by providing nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.

FUN FACTS

EWIC WAS OFFICIALLY DEPLOYED STATEWIDE IN APRIL 2018.

CNMI WIC WAS AWARDED THE GOLD AWARD FOR WIC LOVING SUPPORT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE BY FNS.

IN JUNE 2018, CNMI WIC FACILITATED FOCUS GROUPS ACROSS THE ISLAND WITH EXISTING AND NON-EXISTING WIC PARTICIPANTS TO ASSESS PROGRAM STRENGTHS, BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES FOR WIC FAMILIES OR POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.

FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

“I was unable to maintain a consistent milk supply for my first child while he was in the NICU and ultimately gave up breastfeeding upon his discharge. During my second pregnancy, I had a lot of questions and shared my concerns with the WIC staff. If it hadn’t been for the wonderful team who gave me tips, showed me how I could help and reminded me of the benefits of breastfeeding, I don’t think I would have continued to breastfeed. I am thankful for all their help. Seven months of breastfeeding and still going.”

WIC PARTICIPANT, CNMI

“As one of the WIC vendors on Tinian, I could say that the program is a big help not only for the community but for business as well. Since we started receiving WIC/eWIC it has helped us a lot in terms of sales and bringing us additional customers. And in return we are trying our very best by giving them (WIC participants) a good/better customer relationship. I hope this program continues to meet their goals of helping pregnant women, infants and children in our community.”

WIC VENDOR, CNMI

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands WIC Participation FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Women</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Breastfeeding Women</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Breastfeeding Women</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpartum Women</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>2,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage (% eligible)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WIC IS EFFICIENT**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Food and Nutrition Services Benefits FY 2017

- Average monthly food value per participant: $69.59
- Net federal food cost: $2,732,707
- Competitive bidding savings: $551,532
- Nutrition, client services, and program management: $1,408,788
- Total funds to state: $4,693,027

Source: USDA FNS WIC Program Data FY2017 https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program

**EBT STATUS**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has implemented WIC EBT/eWIC statewide. All state WIC programs must transition from paper vouchers to electronic benefit transfer cards (EBT) by 2020.

**WIC SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands does not have a strong military presence here in the CNMI; they do not have special programs for them. However, they welcome and support their troops.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

- **STATE WIC DIRECTOR**
  Erin Angela Camacho
  P.O. Box 502509
  Saipan, MP 96950
  T: 670-664-4067
  E: erinc@cnmiwic.org

- **NUTRITION COORDINATOR**
  Erin Angela Camacho
  P.O. Box 502509
  Saipan, MP 96950
  T: 670-664-4067
  E: erinc@cnmiwic.org

- **BREASTFEEDING COORDINATOR**
  Luisa Santos
  P.O. Box 502509
  Saipan, MP 96950
  T: 670-664-4084
  E: luisas@cnmiwic.org

- **STATE VENDOR MANAGER**
  Fabian Ulloa
  P.O. Box 502509
  Saipan, MP 96950
  T: 670-664-4067
  E: fabianu@cnmiwic.org

- **APL MANAGER**
  Fabian Ulloa
  P.O. Box 502509
  Saipan, MP 96950
  T: 670-664-4067
  E: fabianu@cnmiwic.org

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