HOW WIC HELPS THE PRAIRIE STATE

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

IL WIC IS COLLABORATING WITH DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES. THEIR STAFF IS ENHANCING THIS SAFETY NET/RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM TO ENSURE INTACT FAMILIES HAVE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUCCEED.

SINCE AUGUST 2018, IL WIC HAS MADE OVER 10,000 CALLS TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN THE MONTH THEY ARE DUE TO DELIVER TO OFFER SUPPORT WITH BREASTFEEDING AND REMIND THEM WIC IS HERE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

IL WIC STAFF MEETS QUARTERLY WITH THE PRAMS DATA MANAGER TO CRAFT EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES AROUND SAFE SLEEP, BREASTFEEDING AND OVERALL HEALTH.

FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS
"WIC was a program that I never knew about until I had my son three years ago. As a new mother, I needed all the help and advice possible. The WIC program has been very helpful to my family. The classes provided at WIC are invaluable – I learn something new every time which helps me and my child to live a healthier, and ultimately, happier life. I am thankful each time I use the coupons and especially the ones for the Farmer’s Market. My son looks forward to the market each week. Thank you for hosting the program – it is truly a great help for my family."

WIC PARTICIPANT, ILLINOIS

"WIC helps supply my family with healthy foods and connects us to vaccination services my family needs. As a foster parent, those first days of a new placement are always hard emotionally and financially, but with WIC I was able to make sure my children were given healthy foods right away without worrying about the cost, which allowed me to focus on their emotional needs. Also, my premature baby has to be on a special formula for the first year and with WIC, the financial burden of this more expensive, specialized formula has been lifted. We’ve been going to WIC and the staff there is always kind and helpful. I’ll keep working with the WIC staff because they do what they can to make life a little less hectic for us! Thanks, WIC!"

WIC PARTICIPANT, ILLINOIS

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?
Illinois WIC Participation FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Women</td>
<td>19,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Breastfeeding Women</td>
<td>4,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Breastfeeding Women</td>
<td>15,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpartum Women</td>
<td>15,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>59,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>100,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>211,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage [% eligible]</td>
<td>43.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WIC IS EFFICIENT

Illinois WIC Food and Nutrition Services Benefits FY 2017

Average monthly food value per participant $48.83
Net federal food cost $123,852,746
Competitive bidding savings $68,240,479
Nutrition, client services, and program management $50,823,759
Total funds to state $242,916,984

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

BREASTFEEDING

National WIC Participant Breastfeeding Initiation Rates
Illinois WIC Participant Breastfeeding Initiation Rates

Source: USDA 2016 WIC Participant and Program Characteristics (PC) Report. PC data allows for standardized comparisons to demonstrate overall progress. Some states collect more data than required by the PC Report and may yield different and more current results than shown.

EBT STATUS

Illinois is implementing WIC EBT/eWIC statewide. All state WIC programs must transition from paper vouchers to electronic benefit transfer cards (EBT) by 2020.

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