How WIC Helps
The Ocean 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

From Our Participants
"In 2000, I had returned to Rhode Island having spent the last five years in school. After a few months, my husband was the only one working and I was pregnant with our second child making us a one-income family household. I was aware of WIC benefits, having received WIC benefits with my first daughter. This second time around because I was not yet working we experienced a tight grocery budget which made it very difficult to make ends meet. The food checks provided by WIC were a huge blessing to us! Because of the checks, I was able to eat the right portions of healthy foods during my pregnancy. Being a parent after ten years, I felt overwhelmed worrying about breastfeeding as if I were a new parent, however the WIC breastfeeding coordinator did a wonderful job of making sure I was given all the necessary support and resources I needed to be successful at breastfeeding. I am so grateful because I was able to breastfeed while receiving WIC too! There were day’s I would go to the WIC clinic with so many questions around feeding my newborn, but the WIC staff would take their time to answer all my questions. Throughout both pregnancies, all the WIC representatives were supportive and provided great education through the birth and growth of my two daughters. Being on WIC has lessened the financial strain on our family every time. Thank God the WIC program was there to guide me by allowing me to get to where I am and help me have a strong healthy family. I know that the healthy eating habits that were established early on in life, still influence and have enormous amount of impact in my daughters’ lives."

WIC Participant, Rhode Island

Who Participates in WIC?
Rhode Island WIC Participation FY 2017

- Pregnant Women: 1,775
- Fully Breastfeeding Women: 333
- Total Breastfeeding Women: 990
- Postpartum Women: 1,447
- Infants: 4,790
- Children: 10,500
- Total: 19,501
- Coverage (% eligible): 55.20%

WIC IS EFFICIENT
Rhode Island WIC Food and Nutrition Services Benefits FY 2017

Average monthly food value per participant $43.00
Net federal food cost $10,062,898
Competitive bidding savings $5,223,934
Nutrition, client services, and program management $6,313,762
Total funds to state $21,600,594

EBT STATUS
Rhode Island is implementing 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
Commissary is a WIC approved vendor. Rhode Island WIC provide flexible appointment hours to accommodate families.

CONTACT DETAILS

STATE WIC DIRECTOR
Ann M. Barone
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
T: 401-222-4604
E: Ann.Barone@health.ri.gov

NUTRITION COORDINATOR
Denise Tamburro
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
T: 401-222-4642
E: denise.tamburro@health.ri.gov

BREASTFEEDING COORDINATOR
Erin Bertoldi
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
T: 401-222-5919
E: erin.bertoldi@health.ri.gov

STATE VENDOR & APL MANAGER
Gurpreet Kaur
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
T: 401-222-4633
E: Preet.Kaur@health.ri.gov

EBT & MIS CONTACT
Gurpreet Kaur
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
T: 401-222-4633
E: Preet.Kaur@health.ri.gov

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