HOW WIC HELPS THE U.S. VIRGIN 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

**THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS WIC RECEIVED A BREASTFEEDING PERFORMANCE AWARD OF $4,828.00 IN 2018 FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN IMPROVING BREASTFEEDING RATES AMONG WIC PARTICIPANTS.**

**USVI WIC FULLY IMPLEMENTED EBT IN 2018.**

**USVI WIC WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE FMNP CHECKS IN 2018 AMIDST RECOVERY EFFORTS OF THE FARMING INDUSTRY RESULTING FROM HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA.**

FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

“I am very satisfied with the service that the staff at WIC give. They are very friendly, kind, and helpful to everyone. I am thankful for this program that is helping many mothers and children like me and making it easier on us. Thanks God for the WIC program.”

**WIC PARTICIPANT, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

“As a WIC authorized Grocer, we are proud to partner with our local WIC Office in their efforts and services to our local community. Our establishment prides itself on providing the freshest fruits & vegetables and other nutritious supplemental foods for WIC participants. The WIC Staff are extremely helpful with issues that may arise which makes this partnership work smoothly to quickly help participants and staff to address any concerns. The eWic has been a great success for everyone involved; the check out process has improved significantly.”

**WIC VENDOR, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?
U.S. Virgin Islands WIC Participation FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Women</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Breastfeeding</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Breastfeeding</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpartum Women</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>2,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage [% eligible]</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WIC IS EFFICIENT
U.S. Virgin Islands WIC Food and Nutrition Services Benefits FY 2017

Average monthly food value per participant $75.51
Net federal food cost $3,393,655
Competitive bidding savings $639,217
Nutrition, client services, and program management $1,648,823
Total funds to state $5,681,695
Source: USDA FNS WIC Program Data FY2017 https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program

BREASTFEEDING
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
The U.S. Virgin 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
Due to the support of Virgin Islands WIC to a military employee, Virgin Islands Department of Health received two awards in 2016 from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) - The Above and beyond Award and a 2016 Freedom Award Semi-Finalist.

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