Overview

- Why be a Voice for WIC?
- The different ways to Be a Voice for WIC
- Being a Voice for WIC with the help of NWA
- Being a Voice for WIC Panel Discussion with NWA’s Legislative Committee
- Break-out into small groups for discussion
- Return to larger group to share ideas
Why Be a Voice for WIC?

- Being an advocate for WIC helps to ensure:
  - Adequate funding and support
  - High quality service delivery
  - Evidence-based WIC food packages
Different ways to Be a Voice for WIC

- Understand what is going on with WIC policy
- Send a letter to Members of Congress
- Call your Member of Congress to educate them about WIC or to take action on a bill
- Visit with your Member of Congress in their district office or on Capitol Hill
- Talk to friends, family, and acquaintances about WIC
- Talk to colleagues and superiors about your program
- Pitch a story to local media and/or be prepared to answer media questions about WIC
- Take advantage of opportunities to talk about WIC at town hall meetings, health fairs, community events, and in PSAs
Being a Voice for WIC with the help of NWA

Read NWA’s weekly legislative updates in our e-publications and blog for up-to-date information on WIC policy.
These are resources for you to consult as needed to become well-versed in different issues and the most current WIC data/research. This will enable you to confidently talk about these issues.
Visit NWA website to send a letter to Members of Congress
Issues change depending on what is going on in Congress, so stay up to date by reading the MMR.
Send a letter...

1. COMPOSE MESSAGE
- Message Recipients:
  - Your U.S. Senators
  - Your U.S. House Representative
- Subject:
  - Disappointed that Congress Mandated WIC Foods
- Issue Area:
  - Certain webform targets require an Issue Area so your message can be directed to the correct staff-person.
  - Select an issue
- Editable text to House:
  - I am writing to express my disappointment with the Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for mandating a food (cucumbers) into the food packages of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) through the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations bills. This marks the first time in the 40 year history of the WIC program that Congress rather than qualified nutrition-scientists are making decisions about which foods should be included in the WIC food packages.
  - WIC, which provides nutrition education, breastfeeding

2. SENDER INFORMATION
- This system requires that you provide your name and contact information. This information will not be used for any purpose other than to identify you to the recipient.
- Your Contact Information:
  - Prefix (required by some officials): [Select...]
  - First *
  - Last *
  - Email *
  - Address *
  - City *
  - State *
  - ZIP *
  - ZIP + 4
  - Phone (required by some officials): [Enter Phone]
- Remember Me? (what's this?)

A copy of your message will be sent to the e-mail address entered above.
Send Message
(Please click only once.)
On the “Take Action Now” page, you can also...

Disappointed that Congress Mandated WIC Foods

Legislative Alerts and Updates

Current Legislation

Key Votes

Capitol Hill Basics

Action Alert

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Get email updates on WIC policy news and action alerts.
Other ways to take action with NWA’s help

- Respond to NWA legislative alerts
  - For example, NWA usually sends a legislative alert about scheduled call-in days to ask Members of Congress to take action on a bill that impacts WIC.
  - Forward NWA legislative alerts to others to take action
- Share sign-on letters with partner groups to have them sign on
- Talk to your friends and family and in casual conversation about WIC

NWA always includes a call script.

We will have 2 of these coming up soon—related to appropriations and reauthorization.

Supplement existing knowledge w/ NWA fact sheets and state profiles.
That’s why NWA is here!

To help our members be advocates
Panel Discussion

- Members of NWA Legislative Committee:
  - Diana Hoek, MS, MPH, Director for Policy, Marketing & Training, Nutrition Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
  - Betsy Clarke, MS, WIC Program Director, Minnesota Department of Health
  - Janet Moran, MS, RD, LD, WIC Program Director, Wyoming Department of Health
  - Melinda Newport, MS, RD/LD, Director of Nutrition Services, the Chickasaw Nation