

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Kathleen Humphries
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) serves approximately 14,500 pregnant women and mothers and their infants and young children per month. WIC promotes positive health outcomes through strengthening life course nutrition with healthful foods and nutrition education, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, and providing comprehensive health and social service referrals.

Program Summary

WIC is a public health program that improves the nutrition and nutrition-related health of pregnant women, nursing moms, infants, and young children. The program is committed to raising the level of nutrition-related health status experienced by the most vulnerable members within the county. WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition education and counseling, growth monitoring, health screening, peer breastfeeding support, and networks of support to eligible families. These services strive to have lasting effects so families enjoy better nutrition and health throughout their lives.

Early life nutrition affects every aspect of health across the life course. Evaluation of WIC has demonstrated that families on WIC are in overall better health and have less food insecurity when they are on the program. Further, WIC mothers have a 25% reduced risk for preterm birth and 44% lower risk for low birth weight babies, which translates into better health and less chronic disease throughout their lives. For every dollar spent on a pregnant woman in WIC, up to \$4.21 is saved in Medicaid costs. Supporting families in their breastfeeding goals is another key focus area for WIC. Breastfeeding provides immunity protection to infants, health benefits to the mother, and lifelong risk reduction for important chronic diseases. Breastfeeding promotion at WIC and the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) program use an evidence-based support model that is effective for the County's most vulnerable families who experience significant economic and racial disparities in breastfeeding.

WIC served over 23,000 different clients last year with multiple visits and provided access to other support services including prenatal and children's healthcare, immunizations, Head Start, housing and day care assistance, social services, referrals to other County public health programs, SNAP and other food assistance. WIC acts as a core referral center for other health and social services and has been key in enrolling families in Medicaid and private insurance and other early childhood programs. WIC's emphasis on prenatal health and early childhood helps the County support health over the life course and reduce health inequities. For example, 28% of WIC clients do not speak English and, in a given month, WIC serves over 4,077 clients who speak 38 languages other than English. The program responds to this need by having signage in multiple languages, hiring professional staff who speak multiple languages fluently, and contracting with outside agencies to provide interpretation services.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer
Output	Number of WIC clients in one year who receive healthful foods with E-WIC benefits	20,222	26,734	23,048	23,050
Outcome	Percent of WIC clients initiating breastfeeding	92%	92%	92%	93%
Outcome	Number of nutrition education contacts with WIC families	59,937	55,000	52,852	55,000
Quality	Average number of clients served per month in languages other than English	NA	4,526	4,077	4,080

Performance Measures Descriptions

1) Participants receive healthful foods and culturally specific ideas on how to use them. Infants who are breastfeeding receive food benefits via enhanced food packages for their nursing mother. 2) % of mothers who initiated breastfeeding after delivery. 3) All participant contacts that include nutrition education, counseling, or support activity or interaction. 4) New in FY18: Families who indicate "prefers a language other than English" and for whom interpreters were provided and family was successful in becoming certified at WIC.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children is authorized by Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1786, as amended through PL105-394, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, 7 CFR Ch. II, Part 246.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019
Personnel	\$881,221	\$2,650,583	\$1,115,100	\$2,639,861
Contractual Services	\$40,000	\$0	\$100,085	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$74,216	\$1,912	\$65,562	\$2,060
Internal Services	\$804,561	\$322,314	\$786,153	\$332,888
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,799,998	\$2,974,809	\$2,066,900	\$2,974,809
Program Total:	\$4,774,807		\$5,041,709	
Program FTE	9.92	27.68	11.55	26.90

Program Revenues				
Indirect for Dept. Admin	\$251,011	\$0	\$258,972	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$2,974,809	\$0	\$2,974,809
Total Revenue	\$251,011	\$2,974,809	\$258,972	\$2,974,809

Explanation of Revenues

WIC's revenue includes federal funds in the intergovernmental revenue agreement between Multnomah County as the local public health authority (LPHA) and the State of Oregon Public Health Services. WIC is also funded with County general fund. County general funds assist the WIC program in meeting the Federal/State funding requirement of scheduling new pregnant women within 10 days of application to the program. Starting in FY17, Title V grant funds were also part of the WIC portfolio of funding. These funds are used to increase African American culturally specific breastfeeding support in Multnomah County through WIC and the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program.

State WIC grant: \$2,678,010; State Maternal & Child Health (Title V) grant: \$75,000
Breastfeeding Peer Counseling support grant: \$221,799

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2018: 40018A Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

In FY18, WIC implemented an extensive redesign project to boldly re-imagine WIC for Multnomah County. The purpose of the redesign has been to aggressively engage in quality improvement efforts to make WIC more relevant to Multnomah County families who are eligible for its services. Caseload declines have been reduced significantly with the one time only funding that WIC received in FY18 and the many quality improvements undertaken.