

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

Executive Summary

The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) serves approximately 13,000 pregnant women and mothers and their infants and young children per month. WIC promotes positive health outcomes through strengthening nutrition across the life course with healthful foods and nutrition education, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, and providing comprehensive health and social service referrals.

Program Summary

WIC improves the nutrition and related health of pregnant women, nursing moms, infants, and young children, and supports food security in vulnerable families. WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition education and counseling, growth monitoring, health screening, peer breastfeeding support, and other support networks to eligible families. WIC acts as a core referral center for other health and social services and has been key in enrolling families in Medicaid, private insurance, and other early childhood programs. In 2020, WIC served approximately 19,000 unique clients with over 48,000 visits and provided access to other support services including prenatal care, immunizations, Head Start, housing and day care assistance, social services, referrals to other County public health programs, SNAP and other food assistance, and more.

WIC's emphasis on prenatal health and early childhood helps the County support health over the life course and reduce health inequities. Evaluation shows WIC families are in overall better health and have less food insecurity when participating in the program. WIC mothers have a 25% reduced risk for preterm birth and 44% lower risk for low birth weight babies, resulting in better health, less chronic disease throughout their lives, and Medicaid costs savings. WIC's breastfeeding promotion uses an evidence-based support model, helping the county's most vulnerable families benefit from immunity protection to infants, health benefits to the mother, and lifelong risk reduction for important chronic diseases.

WIC uses nutrition science research and program data to inform services. Data indicate health disparities among BIPOC and low income women, infants, and children, which is reflected in WIC demographic data. For example, 26% of WIC clients do not speak English and the program has responded by having signage in multiple languages, hiring professional staff who speak multiple languages fluently, and contracting with outside agencies to provide interpretation services. These approaches enable WIC to reach populations most disparately impacted. WIC also partners with culturally specific agencies and advisory boards to provide input and feedback; and surveys clients to inform services.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	# of WIC clients in one year who receive healthful foods with E-WIC benefits	20,000	21,000	19,000	20,000
Outcome	% of WIC clients initiating breastfeeding	94%	94%	94%	94%
Outcome	# of nutrition education contacts with WIC families	48,411	47,000	48,000	48,000
Quality	% of clients served per month in languages other than English	26%	26%	26%	26%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children are 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

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$1,082,508	\$3,245,493	\$1,293,532	\$3,252,961
Contractual Services	\$88,130	\$0	\$83,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$109,731	\$42,608	\$63,498	\$734
Internal Services	\$814,173	\$385,640	\$816,981	\$431,032
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,094,542	\$3,673,741	\$2,257,011	\$3,684,727
Program Total:	\$5,768,283		\$5,941,738	
Program FTE	11.25	28.55	11.26	29.14

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$2,904,037	\$0	\$2,915,023
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$769,704	\$0	\$769,704
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,673,741	\$0	\$3,684,727

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$431,032 in indirect 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. \$2,840,023 -State WIC grant; \$75,000 -State Maternal & Child Health (Title V) grant; \$769,704 -HSO county Based services -WIC.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 40018 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

COVID-19-Related Impacts - WIC services became completely remote in March 2020. This change proved to be successful for clients, as it reduced travel and other barriers related to accessing services, and for WIC staff, as they were able to maintain service quality. In FY22, WIC anticipates having both remote and in-person services (in-person services are still preferred by some clients and provide the ability to perform required health assessments).