



Program #40018 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) FY 2024 Department Requested

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Veronica Lopez Ericksen, Mary
Program Offer Type: Existing **Program Offer Stage:** Department Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

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

Program Description

WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition education and counseling, growth monitoring, health screening, breastfeeding support, and other support networks to eligible families. WIC also acts as a core referral center for other health and social services, including prenatal care, immunizations, Head Start, housing and day care assistance, SNAP and other food assistance, as well as other County public health programs, such as home visiting services and more. Multnomah County WIC leads with race and actively applies an equity lens to all services, programs, delivery methods, education options, staffing, and technology systems. Multnomah County WIC is a leader in innovation, and a regional partner for cross-cutting health programming and equity expertise. In 2022, WIC served approximately 19,000 unique clients with over 58,000 visits and Multnomah County WIC participants received healthful foods totaling \$7.8 million to support both nutritional health and food insecurity. During 2022, and continuing into 2023, WIC services have been exclusively remote, due to the federal waivers in place from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, WIC has maintained its caseload and retained staff at over 95%. In early 2021, participating families rated the remote service model and its quality in meeting their needs as “excellent” in a large-scale text survey. By design, WIC exclusively serves populations experiencing health disparities and uses nutrition science research and program data to inform services. Data indicate health disparities among people of color, especially Black, Indigenous, and low income women, infants, and children, which is reflected in WIC demographic data. The program has responded through signage in multiple languages, staff who speak multiple languages fluently, interpretation services contracts, and technology to promote better access. Currently, 86% (up from 77% in 2020 and 45% in 2016) of WIC staff have language and/or cultural KSAs or are themselves immigrants or refugees. These approaches enable WIC to reach populations most disparately impacted by food and nutrition insecurity. WIC also partners with culturally specific agencies and advisory boards and surveys clients to inform service delivery. For example, our WIC program partnered with Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) to bring culturally specific cooking and nutrition classes for our Black/African American/African Immigrant communities. In partnership with REACH, we hosted a Town Hall with renowned speaker Nikisha Killings on the topic of Implicit Bias in Lactation Support. Our Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) program has experienced a 50% increase in Caseload over the past 12 months. The participating caseload was 500 clients for the BFPC program at the start of 2022 and has now reached over 1025 clients. All WIC partici

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	# of WIC clients in one year who receive healthful foods with E-WIC benefits	19,141	20,000	19,000	19,500
Outcome	% of WIC clients initiating breastfeeding	92%	94%	93%	93%
Outcome	# of nutrition education contacts with WIC families	57,078	48,000	57,000	57,000
Quality	% of clients served per month in languages other than English	25%	25%	25%	26%

Performance Measures Descriptions

The number of nutrition education contacts with WIC families represents almost a 3% increase in services in 2022. Percentage of clients served in a language other than English increased from 24% in January 2022 to 26% in January 2023.

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	Department Requested General Fund	Department Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$1,354,729	\$3,633,855	\$1,717,259	\$3,706,126
Contractual Services	\$58,881	\$0	\$59,330	\$2,495
Materials & Supplies	\$130,766	\$0	\$136,426	\$9,257
Internal Services	\$888,249	\$488,389	\$872,668	\$515,054
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,432,625	\$4,122,244	\$2,785,683	\$4,232,932
Program Total:	\$6,554,869		\$7,018,615	
Program FTE	12.40	31.95	14.06	30.94

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$3,352,540	\$0	\$4,232,932
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$769,704	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$4,122,244	\$0	\$4,232,932

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$515,054 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 FY 2017, 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.

Fed Thru State \$ 3,412,320 - State WIC grant;
 Fed Thru State \$ 75,000 - State Maternal & Child Health (Title V) grant
 Other \$ 745,612 - HSO county Based services -WIC.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 40018 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

In FY 2024, despite increased costs, WIC anticipates retaining our FY23 budgeted FTE which maintains stability in operations and supports our efforts to promote centering race and the cultural communities WIC serves, as well as provide organizational structure to maintain capacity in equity-based services. However, we will experience a reduction of 5.0 FTE due to loss of ARPA funding. This will have significant impact on services to participants.

COVID-19-Related Impacts - WIC services became completely remote in March 2020, remaining so throughout 2022. USDA waivers to maintain exclusively remote service are currently in place through April 2023. We do not anticipate them to be additionally extended. The change to remote proved to be successful for clients, as it reduced travel and other barriers related to accessing services. For the most part, the impact on WIC staff was positive, as they were able to maintain service quality, their own safety, and satisfaction in their jobs. In FY2023, WIC anticipates moving to both remote and in-person ser-