

Program #40018 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

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Department: Health Department

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 more than 16,000 pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding, income-gualified women, infants and children (under age five) per month. WIC is designed to promote positive health outcomes through strengthening life course nutrition with both nutritious foods and nutrition education, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, and providing comprehensive health and social service referrals.

Program Summary

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) provides nutritious food, nutrition education, growth monitoring, health screening, and support services to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and their children up to five years of age experiencing poverty.

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, have less dental-related Medicaid costs, have a reduced risk for preterm birth and low birth weight babies by 25% and 44%, respectively, and demonstrate a lower prevalence of anemia than children with similar income not on WIC. For every dollar spent on a pregnant woman in WIC, up to \$4.21 is saved in Medicaid costs. WIC served over 27,000 clients last year and provided access to other support services including prenatal and other medical care, immunizations, Head Start, housing and day care assistance, social services, and more. The WIC Program acts as a core referral center for other health and social services and has been key in enrolling families in Medicaid and private insurance, as well as 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.

Supporting families in their breastfeeding goals is a key focus area for WIC. Breastfeeding provides immunity protection to infants, health benefits to the mother, and lifelong protection against becoming overweight and obese. WIC operates the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program, which provides breastfeeding support pre- and post-natally and maintains a caseload of over 600 clients. Since its inception, breastfeeding rates in Multnomah County have increased 1% per year.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Purchased	FY16 Estimate	FY17 Offer			
Output	Average number of WIC clients receiving food benefits each month.	16,664	17,000	15,750	16,000			
Outcome	Percent of WIC clients initiating breastfeeding.	91%	92%	92%	92%			
Outcome	Show rate for WIC group nutrition education follow-up.	60.5%	59%	57%	59%			
Outcome	Children at risk of anemia (2-5 year olds).	13.8%	15%	15%	15%			

Performance Measures Descriptions

1) Output: Average number of clients served each month measures the average number of clients receiving WIC food benefits, 2) Outcome: % of mothers who initiated breastfeeding after delivery, 3) Outcome; return for education required each six months to continue participation. 4) Outcome: children with lower than recommended hemoglobin levels. Anemia/low hemoglobin reduces the ability for children to learn.

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	2016	2016	2017	2017
Personnel	\$760,527	\$2,813,716	\$848,599	\$2,798,959
Contractual Services	\$0	\$8,800	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$67,194	\$28,547	\$75,448	\$48,013
Internal Services	\$681,957	\$331,560	\$722,283	\$286,361
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,509,678	\$3,182,623	\$1,646,330	\$3,133,333
Program Total:	\$4,692,301		\$4,779,663	
Program FTE	9.80	33.05	9.28	33.52

Program Revenues								
Indirect for Dept. Admin	\$191,342	\$0	\$222,699	\$0				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$3,182,623	\$0	\$3,133,333				
Total Revenue	\$191,342	\$3,182,623	\$222,699	\$3,133,333				

Explanation of Revenues

The Women, Infants and Children program's revenue is federal funds included 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.

State WIC grant: \$3,118,166

State Maternal & Child Health grant: \$15,167

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2016: 40018-16 Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

In January 2016 WIC launched "eWIC," a new method for families to access WIC foods. This provides families with EBT (electronic benefit transaction) cards, replacing paper vouchers.