

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- National Updates - Kate
- Infant Formula Updates – Jessie
- WINNIE Update – Tami
- FFY 2024 Annual Funding Update – Rebecca
- CVB level adjustment - Tami
- WIC card orders - Tami

National Updates- Kate

Congress has not yet come to an agreement on the budget for FFY 2024 and bills for WIC Funding from both the House and Senate would not provide full funding to meet the project caseload levels for the upcoming year. The House bill makes significant cuts to the WIC Program and would scale back the expanded fruit and vegetable benefit. The White House has requested that additional funding be provided for WIC to ensure there would be adequate funds to cover all participants, but we have yet to see that show up in either chamber. Even flat funding for the coming year would not be enough to cover all participants seeking services from WIC. It is looking increasingly like there may be a federal government shutdown for a short time unless both the House and Senate can agree on a Continuing Resolution (CR) before October 1.

We are still hoping for full program funding and that Congress will at least agree to a CR that would include adequate funding to serve current caseloads and extend the fruit and vegetable benefit. It is very possible that negotiations will continue into the weekend that ends September and starts the month of October. We are confident that USDA will provide adequate funding to cover WIC Program costs for at least a short-term federal government shutdown. The state office will keep Local Agencies updated as we move toward Monday, October 2. WIC will continue to operate as usual even if there is a short-term federal government shutdown. We will use all of our normal communication channels to get information out in the event of a shutdown including email, mobile app messaging, website, social media, etc.

Since we don't know what would be included in a CR, should one be passed, we'll also keep LAs notified about the CVB level starting October 1. If there is a shutdown, the CVB will revert to the lower inflation adjusted level that agencies have been issuing the last few months. If there is a CR, the CVB may be authorized at the higher level, or it may be reduced to the lower inflation adjusted amounts. We are prepared to work with our contractor to adjust CVB levels up if the higher level of benefit is extended beyond September 30.

Other Program Updates

- **Infant Formula Updates** – Jessie

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- **Medical formula continues to have supply issues** – Hypoallergenic formulas Nutramigen and Alimentum can still be hard to find in the store. These formulas can be ordered from MDH.
- If infants are using hypoallergenic formulas due to the previous Gentlease shortage, work to transition healthy infants back to Gentlease.
- Preemie products, Neosure and Enfacare can also be hard to find in retail stores. Neosure can be ordered from MDH in standard sizes. Enfacare may be ordered from MDH in the 7.2oz powder sizes (considered ½ a can of standard) or 2 oz nursettes. Enfacare standard sizes should improve in October.
- Talk with families, physicians and if necessary, your State WIC Consultant to help families access medical formulas.
- **WINNIE Update** – Tami
 - **Updated roll-out schedule** – Due to a conflict in April 2024 we have shortened the roll-out schedule. We have removed week 8 so those that were previously in week 8 please review the updated schedule to determine your new week.
 - **Readiness Guide** – the draft readiness guide is posted online. We will continue to update throughout Pilot. Reminder that all agencies will need to shut down at noon the day before their scheduled rollout day to allow for user set up and transfer needed data for starting with WINNIE.
- **FFY 2024 Annual Funding Update** – Rebecca
 - **FFY 2024 Annual Funding** email will go to administrators in early to mid-October. The email will have a link for administrators to the WIC Caseload and Authorized Funding Information on our website. In a WU we will share when the email went out to administrators and the link to the WIC Caseload and Authorized Funding Information.
 - **Supplemental Clinic Travel Funding (SCTF)** is available to all agencies if annual satellite clinic travel is estimated to be greater than \$2,000. We have a SCTF application that will help you determine if your agency qualifies for the additional funding. You will contact Tammie Edmundson for the application and details will be in a WU later in October.
- **CVB level adjustment** – Tami
 - Should the CVB level increase continue after 9/30 we have worked with our contractors to implement the same process as last year. At night they will coordinate increasing the CVB levels for participants already issued benefits for October, November and December. Communication will go out to Local Agencies Monday 10/2 with guidance about the CVB level. Watch this email for further guidance on issuance of the CVB after 10/1/23.
- **WIC card orders** – Tami
 - WIC Card orders were due last Friday, 9/15. Regardless if you need cards or not, agencies need to complete the order. We still have 26 agencies that haven't filled this out. As a reminder, we are not able to do emergency orders.

Questions & Answers

If families can find the Ready to Feed (RTF), can we go ahead and switch it to RTF for 1 month? If so, do we need to get a new MD approval for it?

- For RTF formula guidelines, refer to **MOM Policy 7.5.2 Ready-to-Feed/Use Formula**, located in [Section 7.5 WIC Formulas](#). Contact your consultant to discuss formula availability in your area if there is no other option besides RTF.

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- For Enfamil Enfacare, if it is in low supply, we can order 7.2 oz smaller cans of Enfamil Enfacare if needed. Look at the MDH order form for more information.

Are you able to share the Per Participant rate for FFY24?

The rate will remain at \$20.00 per participant in FFY 2024.

Will pediasure with fiber be changed to 4 packs on to issue on the card?

Abbott Laboratories are now packaging PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber in 7.4 oz containers in 4-count packs. Six-packs were previously readily available in stores, so with this change a new subcategory to add PediaSure with Fiber in 7.4 oz containers was created.

New food item description: PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber (containers)

Food distribution item: container(s)

RTF PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber Max containers: 120 containers; the four-pack will remove 4 containers

See [Changes to PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber](#) for more details.

Under what category is the roll out schedule on the site?

On our website, go to WIC Local Agencies>>Staff Resources >> Information System >> WINNIE Information System.

Is the state doing anything for 2023 National Enrollment Week? Like outreach texts or postcards?

We plan to utilize NWA's content on our WIC social media channels.

If IT has a question about the web-based platform for WINNIE who would you like us to direct them to?

Please reach out to Tami Matti at tami.matti@state.mn.us and your call will be triaged to the correct person to answer the question.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

Section 7.5 WIC Formulas

(https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/program/mom/chsctns/ch7/sctn7_5.pdf)

PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber for more details

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2023/0614pediasure.pdf>)

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program, 625 Robert St N, PO BOX 64975, ST PAUL MN 55164-0975; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; to obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942.

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