



WIC

2007 Fact Sheet

Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program

What is WIC?

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children.

WIC provides supplemental foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, and referrals to other health and nutrition services.

All participants receive:

- Screening for nutrition and health needs
- Information on how to use WIC foods to improve health
- Checks to buy healthful foods
- Referrals to doctors, dentists and programs like Food Share, Healthy Start and Head Start
- Breastfeeding information and support

WIC is proven to reduce the number of premature births, low birth-weight babies and long-term medical expenses.



How Can I Apply for WIC?

To be eligible for WIC benefits in Wisconsin, a person must meet the following requirements:

- be a pregnant, breastfeeding or new mother; be an infant up to age 1; or be a child up to age 5; and
- be a resident of Wisconsin; and
- be income eligible (see chart to right); and
- have a health or nutrition need

The WIC Program uses the same gross income criteria as reduced-price school lunches. Many working families qualify. Individuals who participate in other programs such as FoodShare, Medicaid and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, also known as W2) may automatically be income eligible.

For a list of WIC clinic locations, visit www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/WIC/index.htm.

WIC INCOME ELIGIBILITY TABLE

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Family Size	Weekly Income	Biweekly Income	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	364	727	1,575	18,889
2	488	975	2,111	25,327
3	611	1,222	2,648	31,765
4	735	1,470	3,184	38,203
5	859	1,717	3,721	44,641
6	983	1,965	4,257	51,079
7	1,107	2,213	4,794	57,517
8	1,230	2,460	5,330	63,955
Additional	+124	+248	+537	+6,438

* Based on 185% of the US Department of Health and Human Services

* Non-farm Income Poverty Guidelines for Gross Income (Before Deductions)

WIC Wisconsin 2006*: Participation and Benefits

	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	U.S.
Average Monthly Participants 2006	33,350 ¹	112,181 ²	8,088,005 ²
Average Monthly Food Cost Per Person	\$50.53 ¹	\$34.57 ²	\$37.08 ⁶
Percent of Food Insecure WIC Households	50% ³	51% ³	42% ⁸
Total WIC Funding FY 2006	\$3,792,635 ¹ (CY)	\$66,098,462 ⁵	\$5,000,782,184 ⁵
Participation Rate	77% (2005) ⁴	81.03% (2005) ⁴	57% (2003) ⁷

¹SOURCE: Data provided by the Department of Health and Family Services, Milwaukee County, June 2006.

²SOURCE: USDA Food and Nutrition Services, *WIC PROGRAM, Monthly Data—Agency Level*, (data through April 2006), accessible at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/WICAgencies2006ytd.xls>.

³SOURCE: Wisconsin WIC Association and Wisconsin Division of Public Health, *Food Security in the Wisconsin WIC Population*, (2007)

⁴SOURCE: UW-Extension, *Milwaukee County Food Security Profile 2005*

⁵SOURCE: USDA Food and Nutrition Services, *Summary of FY2006 Grants (as of July 2006 Reallocation After Rescission)*, accessible at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/fundingandprogramdata/grants2006.htm>

⁶SOURCE: Monthly WIC data accessible at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/WIC_Monthly.htm, 2006.

⁷SOURCE: USDA Food and Nutrition Services, *WIC Program Coverage: How Many Eligible Individuals Participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children: 1994 to 2003*.

⁸SOURCE: USDA Food Assistance & Nutrition Research Program, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2004*.

What Can You Purchase with WIC Vouchers?



- Milk, eggs, cheese
- Cereals
- Peanut butter, dried beans and peas
- Tuna fish
- Carrots
- Fruit juices

Our WIC Advocacy

Hunger Task Force advocacy staff works with decision makers to maintain WIC funding. Our advocacy for WIC includes:

- ▶ Fighting for adequate funding. In FY 2006, WIC spent over \$66 million for food in the Wisconsin economy. We work with elected officials to ensure continued support of this important nutrition program. We also chair the Wisconsin WIC Advisory Committee.
- ▶ Program referral. Through our network of food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens, we encourage qualified individuals to apply for both WIC and FoodShare.

FAST FACTS:

How Does WIC Benefit Participants?



- 50 percent of all Wisconsin infants receive WIC.
- WIC lowers infant mortality by 1/4 to 2/3 among Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Pregnant women participating in WIC receive prenatal care earlier than non-participants.
- WIC increases the duration of pregnancy and reduces low birth rates.
- WIC decreases the incidence of iron deficiency anemia in children.
- WIC significantly improves children's diets, medical care and immunization schedule.
- WIC prepares children for school by improving cognitive development.
- WIC saves money by preventing costly health problems.

SOURCE: Wisconsin WIC Orientation Training, June 2006