

TALWD NEWS



TALWD Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors shall be to act as a vehicle for the expression of ideas on planning, policy, coordination, implementation, and administration of the WIC program on the Local, State, and Federal level; to foster communication between local WIC programs and the Texas Department of Health with the goal of positively affecting the administration of WIC within the state; to bring together administrators of Local Agency WIC Programs, in order to provide peer support, orientation and/or assistance; and to promote professional and public awareness of new and existing Federal and State legislation.

From the Editor: Please contact us, if you have suggestions or story ideas. Hope you enjoy Volume 5, Issue 25

Meliza Garcia, Newsletter Reporter

Email: mgarcia@sanpatriciocountytx.gov

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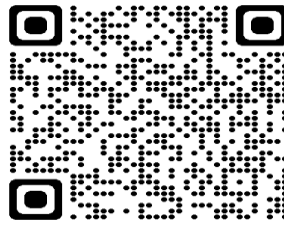
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National WIC Association

NWA is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).



Key Legislation to Modernize WIC Reintroduced

Last week, Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Roger Marshall (R-KS), [joined](#) by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), led [reintroduction](#) of the MODERN WIC Act. This important legislation would provide permanent remote certification options while facilitating new data-sharing opportunities with health care providers and providing additional flexibilities to ensure timely collection of anthropometric data. Senators Gillibrand and Marshall also reintroduced the WIC Healthy Beginnings Act, which would create a centralized resource at USDA for information about WIC infant formula contracts to urge increased competition and clarity during the bidding process. Together, these key bills take important steps to modernize WIC and ensure the program can better meet the needs of busy families.

Appropriations Hearings Highlight Agriculture, WIC Funding

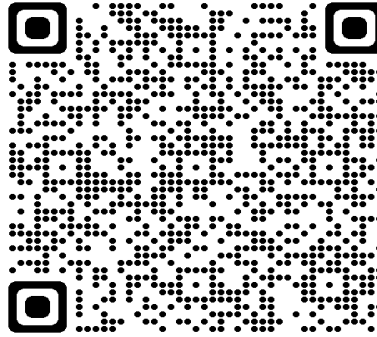
Last week, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack testified before the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees to review the President's Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal. At both hearings, Secretary Vilsack detailed how spending cuts proposed by some House Republicans would impact USDA funding, necessitating deep cuts to WIC and a possible return to waiting lists for the first time since the late 1990s. In response to questions from Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Secretary Vilsack also emphasized the importance of WIC's enhanced Cash Value Benefit for fruits and vegetables and reiterated USDA's commitment to proposed science-based updates to the WIC food package. While WIC has long enjoyed bipartisan support, broader negotiations about federal spending may pose new challenges in securing necessary funding to serve the 6.5 million participants WIC is projected to serve in FY24.

House Oversight Hearing Examines Infant Formula Crisis

On Tuesday, the House Oversight Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing [examining](#) the 2022 infant formula crisis and collecting insights in an effort to spark legislative actions that prevent future shortages. Testifying at the hearing were Frank Yiannas, a former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) official, and Peter Lurie, president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. The hearing largely focused on weaknesses in the infant formula supply chain and shortcomings of current food safety procedures, although a few lawmakers did raise questions about WIC's infant formula contracting process. NWA will continue to work with partners and policymakers to seek comprehensive, cross-agency [solutions](#) to strengthen the nation's infant feeding systems.

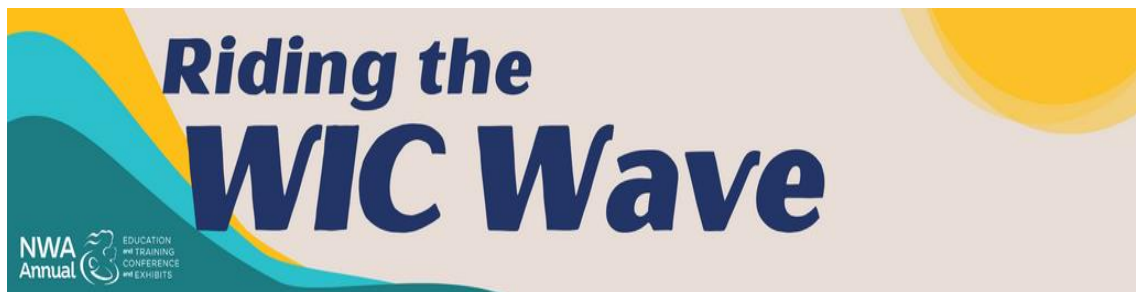
TX Judge Strikes Down ACA Preventive Care Requirements

Last Thursday, a judge in Texas [ruled](#) that the provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requiring coverage of preventive services without cost-sharing was unconstitutional. Under the ACA, most private health plans were required to cover a broad array of preventive health services at no out-of-pocket cost to patients. While the ruling does not apply to all [preventive care services](#), if allowed to stand, certain services and medications for the prevention of HIV transmission and treatment of conditions like heart disease and cancer may become subject to copays and other cost-sharing mechanisms. The Biden Administration has announced that it will appeal the ruling



NWA's 2023 Annual Business Meeting

NWA will hold its virtual [Annual Business Meeting](#) prior to the Annual Conference on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm ET**. This meeting will be held virtually. NWA invites its voting members to attend and vote for elected positions, Bylaws changes, and other resolutions brought forth by the membership



Updated Agenda Now Available for NWA's 2023 Annual Conference

The [2023 NWA Annual Education and Training Conference and Exhibits](#) will begin on May 1 and end on May 4. Check out the [updated agenda](#). All payments are due on April 21.

[Updated Agenda](#)

Lodging Update for NWA's 2023 Annual Conference

Due to high demand, our original room block at the host hotel and a secondary hotel is full. If you plan on attending the conference and have not secured a hotel reservation, [search for hotel availability](#) via our trusted partner aRes Travel. If you haven't registered for the conference yet, [register now!](#)

[Learn More](#)

Pre-Conference Offering Clinical Skills Workshop

Join us in-person in San Diego for our Pre-Conference [Clinical Skills Workshop for Lactation Professionals](#) on either **April 30 or May 1** for a 3-hour clinical skills training. This workshop will address how WIC breastfeeding staff can support and identify normal breastfeeding behaviors and provide evidence-based care for common breastfeeding challenges. The workshop is intended for those who hold lactation credentials such as CLC, CLS, or IBCLC or those who aspire to obtain these licensures.

Attendees will learn technical knowledge and skills and after this training, will return to their WIC agencies with increased confidence in their ability to provide lactation support.

Registrants do not have to be registered for [NWA's Annual Conference](#) to attend the Pre-Conference workshop. The Pre-Conference is open for an additional fee. There are only 90 spots open for each of the April 30 and May 1 sessions so be sure to register soon!

Join Us for our Armchair Conversation for Black Maternal Health Week

Black Maternal Health Week is April 11-17! Join us LIVE on **April 12 at 1:00 pm ET** with NWA President & CEO, Dr. Jamila Taylor and Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14) for a special armchair conversation on Black Maternal Health and WIC!



NWA Now Accepting Proposals AHEAD 2.0: Strengthening and Diversifying the WIC Workforce (IBCLC) Subgrant Funding

NWA is accepting proposals for the AHEAD 2.0: Strengthening and Diversifying the WIC Workforce (IBCLC) Subgrant Funding. [View the RFP here](#) and share it widely with your networks.

Proposals are due April 28, 2023.

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[NWA's RFP Page](#)

[View the RFP](#)

NWA Press Room

MEDIA CONTACT

Tim Ward
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Press Releases

March 28, 2023

[HASTY REFORMS AFTER INFANT FORMULA CRISIS COULD JEOPARDIZE WIC'S NUTRITION SUPPORT FOR KIDS](#)

Congress should not be pursuing policy changes that take food from the mouths of toddlers to put money in the pockets of infant formula manufacturers.

March 17, 2023

[CDC DATA SHOWS MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS WORSENS; WIC CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION](#)

"There is no time to waste—Congress must act now. We must address this crisis of care and eliminate the racial disparities that plague maternal health outcomes. NWA is committed to working with all stakeholders to find solutions that create meaningful change, including addressing systemic racism and inequality within the healthcare system, enhancing data collection, and diversifying the WIC workforce to better reflect the communities most harmed by this burgeoning health crisis."

March 14, 2023

[HEALTH INEQUITIES LEADING TO SIDS INCREASE AMONG BLACK INFANTS MUST BE ADDRESSED; WIC IS PART OF THE SOLUTION](#)

Unexplained deaths among Black infants rose substantially during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a [new study](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

March 9, 2023

[PRESIDENT BIDEN CALLS FOR FUNDING WIC AT \\$6.3B, NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION LOOKS TO CONGRESS FOR PASSAGE](#)

Today, President Biden released his [fiscal year 2024 \(FY24\) budget](#) and in it, signaled \$6.3 billion in support for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

March 7, 2023

[SCIENCE-BASED REVIEW CRITICAL FOR A HEALTHY WIC FOOD PACKAGE](#)

There's no greater evidence of this than the recent fruit and vegetable benefit increase that brought the WIC food package closer to scientific dietary recommendations

February 22, 2023

[NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION'S NEW REPORT SHOWS INCREASE IN CHILD PARTICIPATION](#)

The National WIC Association (NWA), the nation's only nonprofit solely dedicated to the support and advancement of the WIC program, released its 2023 State of WIC report, "[Building the Bridge to a Healthier Future.](#)"

February 17, 2023

[USDA PROPOSES RULE CHANGE TO MODERNIZE WIC SHOPPING EXPERIENCE](#)

Not only is the availability of online shopping options pivotal for saving WIC families time but it also allows access to healthy foods with more ease than ever before.

February 6, 2023

[USDA GRANTS WIC PROVIDERS REMOTE FLEXIBILITIES IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ENDING](#)

These waivers are a major step in modernizing WIC services and expanding the program's impact so more families can access the resources and support they need to lead healthier lives

February 1, 2023

[WALMART FOUNDATION AWARDS \\$1.2M TO SUPPORT NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSIFYING WIC WORKFORCE](#)

The National WIC Association (NWA) has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to catalyze NWA's work to support strengthening and diversifying the WIC workforce

NWA Blog

April 3, 2023

[MEET THE SPEAKERS: BARBARA KING, IBCLC AND JILL WILSON, MPH, RD, IBCLC](#)

Barbara King, IBCLC and Jill Wilson, MPH, RD, IBCLC of Hennepin County WIC will be speaking at NWA's 2023 Annual Conference May 1-4 in San Diego, CA! Read this special Q+A blog to learn more about their work and get an inside scoop on their session before the conference!

February 24, 2023

[HONORING OUTSTANDING WIC STAFF FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH](#)

This Black History Month we're honoring members of WIC Staff and learning about their outstanding work serving their communities!

February 6, 2023

[NWA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT](#)

The National WIC Association (NWA) celebrates the 30th anniversary of the historic Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), signed into law by President Bill Clinton on February 5, 1993.

January 31, 2023

[NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION SEEKS FIRM TO DEVELOP WIC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN](#)

The [National WIC Association](#) (NWA) is seeking a vendor to lead a national campaign celebrating WIC's 50th Anniversary.

February 2, 2023

[5 REASONS TO ATTEND NWA'S 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE](#)

Attending conferences is a great way to network and get in-depth knowledge about your industry. Here are 5 reasons to attend [2023 NWA Annual Education and Training Conference and Exhibits](#), May 1-4, 2023.

January 27, 2023

[NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION SEEKS FIRM TO REDESIGN WIC ENROLLMENT WEBSITE](#)

**TEXAS WIC
WIC Weekly Memos and Bulletins**

Number	Title/Notes	Date Published
23-021	Additional Cereals Sizes and Updated Shopping Resources	03/29/2023
23-020	2023 Disposal of Records	03/20/2023
23-019	Revisions to Texas WIC Policy CS:12.0	03/20/2023
23-018	New trainings, updated schedule available for March, April and May	03/08/2023
23-017	Ameda Pearl Breast Pump Training	02/23/2023
23-014	New trainings, updated schedule available for February, March, and April	02/15/2023
23-016	Prenatal Breastfeeding Education Bag Order Opportunity	02/15/2023
23-013	WISE Report Due to the State Agency by, April 30, 2023	02/06/2023
23-011	2023 Texas WIC Dietetic Internship Application Process	01/30/2023

WIC Income Guidelines Updated

BY JESSICA LEYENDECKER, MPH, WIC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST

The Texas WIC Income Guidelines were updated on April 1 on the TexasWIC.org Apply Page in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The chatbot and myWIC app were updated as well.

We are working on updating all print materials and having them available in the catalog to order. In the meantime, they are available at the links below to print from Egnyte.

Print resources in Egnyte

- [Income Guidelines](#)
- [Reference Guide for Partner Programs](#)
- [Additional Outreach Flyers and Templates](#)

Please refer to memo [#23-019](#) for more information.

Register Now

Guest speakers will be presented live on Zoom and recorded for future viewing in the WIC LMS.

Please register in advance. Contact [Angela Gil](#) if you have any questions.

ARFID/Basics of Sensory Issues in Children



Date: Thursday, April 13

Time: 12-1:30 pm CST

Join Lea Peyton Gebhardt, PHD, RDN, LDN, as she discusses ARFID and the basics of sensory issues in children. [Register Here](#).

What to Expect as Gen Z Starts to Parent



Date: Thursday, May 11

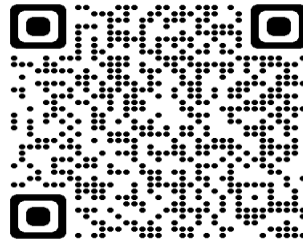
Time: 12-1 pm CST

Dr. Ellie Erickson, MD, FAAP, and Joe Waters will discuss the challenges facing Gen Z parents, demographic shifts and strategies to support the well-being of Gen Z parents and their children.

[Register Here](#).



[Personal Information - 2023 Texas WIC Nutrition & Breastfeeding Conference \(utexas.edu\)](https://utexas.edu)



**TALWD 2023
ANNUAL MEETING
AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Art Fuston: Brandy Patteson - Brandy is amazing! Despite local agency challenges, she continues to work hard for TALWD through participation in board activities, planning, and collaboration with other Directors. She is kind, easy to talk to, and has a wealth of knowledge that inspires me. Brandy shows strong commitment to excellence and dedication to TALWD and the WIC program. She has provided valuable information to me about my responsibilities in TALWD. She takes time to talk about the concerns and listens well to feedback. Thank you Brandy for always putting your BEST out there, for striving beyond excellence, and for being a profession that we can collaborate with. Way to Go!

Customer Service: Alyssa Rubin - She is consistently responsive in a timely and efficient manner with all requests. Alyssa demonstrates excellence in customer service and cares about our local agency needs, including her consistent attention to what is needed and desired from clients for food package options, easy access to healthy foods, and making the shopping experience better for our families. She works on changes that make sense for our program and presents changes to directors in a positive light. The work she does is directly related to providing great customer service and she does it with a smile on her face (the whole time).

Newcomer: Priscilla Cole - Priscilla has a pleasant disposition and is determined to ensure the best care for those she services. Priscilla is easy to work with and is a huge support system for the execution of TALWD's pursuits. She helped on the planning committee for the TALWD annual meeting and she helped create a smooth and seamless experience for our WIC Directors through coordination of the volunteers.