



### 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](mailto:mgarcia@sanpatriciocountytx.gov)

#### 2023 TALWD BOARD MEMBERS:

President – Benny Jasso  
 Secretary – Sandie Lopez  
 Treasurer – Jessica Neal  
 1st VP of Organization & Development – Brandy Patteson  
 2nd VP of Operations – Jennifer Ranspot  
 NWA Representative – Adela Garcia  
 NWA Rep-Elect – Kathryn Almaraz  
 Newsletter Reporter – Meliza Garcia  
 Historian – Tecora Smith  
 Past Presidents Council Representative – Eileen Mendoza

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Business & Finance Chair – Margaret Payton  
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 Local Agency Administration Chair – Kelly Bocanegra  
 Technology Task Force – Brandy Patteson  
 Funding Formula Task Force – Margaret Payton  
 Re-Opening Task Force – Amanda Brogden  
 QA Task Force – Eileen Mendoza

#### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES & ALTERNATIVES:

Central Representative – Alissa Orozco  
 \*Alternate – Amber Oltmann  
 Panhandle Representative – Jennifer Gregory  
 \*Alternate – Margaret Payton  
 Western Representative – Cristina Eureste  
 \*Alternate – Adriana Archer  
 Northern Representative – Janice Piper  
 \*Alternate – Kathy Oliver  
 Gulf Coast Representative – Becca Reed  
 \*Alternate - Zahra Koopaei  
 Southwestern Representative – Mandi Wilcox  
 \*Alternate - Adela Garcia  
 Eastern Representative – Scherry Barnes  
 \*Alternate – TBD  
 Southern Representative – Clarissa Ramirez  
 \*Alternate – Yvette Viciniaz



## 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).*



### Legislative Update

#### New Law Protecting Pregnant Workers Takes Effect

Last Tuesday, a new law ensuring reasonable accommodations and employment protections for pregnant and postpartum workers went into effect. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in December 2022, creating a federal accommodations standard to protect the health of pregnant and postpartum workers. The White House [hosted](#) an event celebrating implementation of the PWFA and passage of the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, which expands breaktime protections for lactating workers. Both bills were legislative priorities for NWA last Congress and passed in part due to longtime advocacy from the WIC community.

#### USDA Releases New Data on SNAP Administration

On Friday, USDA resumed releasing [data](#) on State SNAP Administration, showing an increase in rates of over- and under-payment of benefits since data was last reported in 2020. Notably, this data includes error rates resulting from pandemic-era SNAP flexibilities, a byproduct of the strain on state administering agencies working to meet unprecedented demand for nutrition assistance despite limited program bandwidth. The flexibilities that may have contributed to higher error rates in SNAP payments have since been phased out at the conclusion of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, but many state agencies are experiencing continued administration challenges, including low staffing. Some anti-hunger advocates have [expressed concern](#) that data on administration errors will be falsely conflated with program fraud—a separate and distinct issue—and lead to unwarranted scrutiny in the ongoing Farm Bill process, at the expense of emphasizing SNAP's success in supporting families.

#### New Blog Post



### Meet Health Equity Champion, Alejandra!

NWA Blog



[nwica.org/nwa-blog](https://nwica.org/nwa-blog)

### Meet 2023 Health Equity Champion: Alejandra!

In our latest blog post, get to know Health Equity Champion Alejandra Arellano! Alejandra is the Advocacy and Health Equity Manager at Lundquist WIC. Learn more about her WIC story and dedication to health equity at the [link below!](#)

[Read the Blog Post](#)

## NWA's Website is Getting Revamped - We Need Your Help

The [National WIC Association](#) (NWA) is conducting a survey to gain a better understanding of how our members interact with our current website and explore what users want and need from the site. Your insights will be invaluable as we work to enhance the experience and layout of our site to better serve all of our website visitors. This short survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and will be open for responses until **Thursday, July 6**. Please [access the survey here](#). We appreciate your participation!

### AHEAD 2.0 RD/RDN Subgrant Deadline EXTENDED

The deadline to apply for AHEAD 2.0 RD/RDN Subgrants has been extended to **July 14!** Award announcements will be made at the end of July. Learn more and apply [here](#).

### Apply for AHEAD 2.0 CPPA Subgrants!

Subgrants are available for State or Local WIC agencies to fund scholarships for their staff to complete the requirements needed to apply into a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician Registered (NTDR) program or to apply and sit for the IBCLC exam in 2023 or 2024. The deadline to apply is **July 28!** Learn more and apply [here!](#)

## NWA's Participant Advisory Council – Applications Now Open!

The National WIC Association is launching the third cohort of the [WIC Participant Advisory Council](#) where WIC participants will consider how best to improve, streamline, and modernize the WIC experience. Participant Advisory Council members will serve as consultants to NWA by providing their expertise on the WIC experience in order to advocate for new program and policy priorities and recommendations. Potential members will be able to collaborate directly with NWA staff, engage and contribute to WIC policy and education, and build relationships virtually with WIC families across the country. Most importantly, councilmembers will be able to re-envision the future of WIC and advocate for building a stronger, more participant-centered WIC. The Participant Advisory Council is an opportunity for WIC participants to make their voices heard and represent WIC participants across the nation.

In order to be eligible to serve on the Participant Advisory Council, applicants must:

- Commit to serving on the council for at least 1 year (August 2023-August 2024)
- Have participated in WIC for at least six months
- Be a current/former participant in the WIC program OR the caretaker of a former/current WIC participant
- Not be currently employed by the WIC program

Members of the Participant Advisory Council will receive:

- Compensation (\$25/hour)
- Individual membership in NWA
- Complementary virtual NWA conference registration

Applications can be completed [here](#) by **July 18**. Please share this opportunity widely with your community, colleagues, WIC clinics, and with WIC

families in your community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to NWA's State Public Policy Manager, Noora Kanfash, by email at [nkanfash@nwica.org](mailto:nkanfash@nwica.org) or by phone at 202.719.5129

# The Secret Ingredient

NWA Launches Infant Feeding Campaign



In the Spring of 2023, NWA launched the [Secret Ingredient campaign](#). Its goal is to change the perception of infant feeding and ensure WIC families understand available support regardless of their chosen feeding method. The campaign features an easy-to-use toolkit that includes videos, social media samples, print materials, and more in various languages - and is

completely free of charge! [View the campaign here.](#)

[Download the Resources](#)

## Share Your WIC Testimonies

NWA is seeking videos, photos, or written testimonies from WIC families, staff, vendors, farmers, and stakeholders.

Submit your story by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below. We want to hear from you!



[Submit Your Testimony](#)



## Career Corner

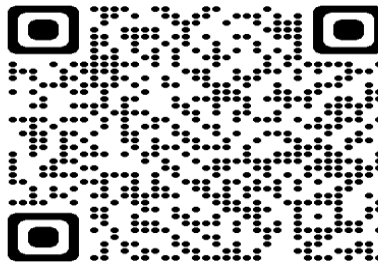
Explore additional opportunities on our [WIC Job Postings](#) page for up-to-date job listings. If you have a WIC job opening, please email [info@nwica.org](mailto:info@nwica.org) with the job title, description, organization name, city, state, and the link to the job posting.

- [Consultant - Media Relations Advisor Office of the President & CEO, DC](#)
- [NWA's Director for the Center for Innovative Practices in WIC, DC](#)
- [Vendor Management Analyst, CA](#)
- [Registered Dietitian/Supervisor, SC](#)
- [Federal Grant Estimate and Settlement Unit Chief, CA](#)

[WIC Job Postings Page](#)

[NWA Job Postings](#)

# NWA Press Room



*June 22, 2023*

## [SENATE SHOWS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO WIC FAMILIES IN MARKUP PROCESS](#)

National WIC Association: Contrasting sharply with the reckless path pursued last week by the House Republicans, the Senate has stepped up to place the well-being of our nation's mothers and children front and center.

*Agri-Pulse | June 21, 2023*

## [WIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BENEFITS TARGETED IN FISCAL DEBATE](#)

House Republicans are trying to roll back an increase in fruit and vegetable benefits for women and kids participating in the WIC nutrition program, which has long had strong bipartisan support.

*National Journal | June 15, 2023*

## ['IT WILL BE BAD': WIC PROGRAM BECOMES FLASH POINT IN SPENDING TALKS](#)

Nutrition programs supporting low-income women, babies, and young children may need to tighten their belts—and impose waiting lists—under currently proposed spending levels for 2024.

*June 14, 2023*

## [HOUSE ADVANCES BILL TO CUT FOOD FOR WIC FAMILIES](#)

Today, the House Appropriations Committee marked up the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill, which funds the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

*June 2, 2023*

## [CONGRESS MUST ENSURE DEBT DEAL'S ARBITRARY CAPS DON'T TAKE FOOD AWAY FROM KIDS AND MOMS](#)

Last night, the U.S. Senate advanced the bipartisan agreement to avert a first-ever default. The agreement will cap federal spending - keeping non-defense discretionary spending at relatively flat levels while limiting new investment to 1% growth in the fiscal year 2025

*May 30, 2023*

## [DEBT LIMIT AGREEMENT COULD CAUSE WIC FUNDING SHORTFALL](#)

President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached a tentative agreement to suspend the debt ceiling until the first quarter of 2025, preventing the United States from defaulting on its debts. Recent statements from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen indicate that Congress must act before June 5 to avoid default

*May 19, 2023*

## [NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES SECRET INGREDIENT CAMPAIGN TO EMPOWER NEW PARENTS AND ADDRESS INFANT FORMULA CRISIS](#)

Today, the National WIC Association (NWA), with generous support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), proudly launches the Secret Ingredient Campaign. This media initiative focuses on infant feeding and is designed to empower new parents and encourage confidence, community and agency.

*May 16, 2023*

## [WIC ACT WILL EXTEND ELIGIBILITY AGE AND IMPROVE NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN AND MOTHERS](#)

Today, Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) and Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR), Linda Sánchez (D-CA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA) reintroduced the Wise Investment in our Children (WIC) Act – a bill that would expand eligibility age for children and new mothers and extend infant certification periods within the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

# Innovating the WIC Participant Experience

Re:Connect

Portland, OR  
September 27 - 29  
2023



2023 NWA WIC Technology, Innovation, and Vendor Management Conference

September 27 - 29, 2023 in Portland, Oregon at the Hyatt Regency Portland at the Oregon Convention Center.



[National WIC Association \(nwica.org\)](https://nwica.org)

## NWA Webinars

**July 20th, 2023, 3 pm ET - Beyond WIC: Strengthening Nutrition Support in the Farm Bill**

[Register](#)

Speakers: TBD

Join this webinar to learn about the Farm Bill and the impact on American families from national partners. During the webinar, speakers will dive into the future of specific programs included in the Farm Bill, such as SNAP, TEFAP, among other nutrition and agriculture programs. Learn how you, as a WIC provider, can get engaged in educating your members of Congress on the Farm Bill.

**August 10th, 2023, 3 pm ET - Generational Clarity (Trauma-Informed Strategies) An Indigenous Perspective**

[Register](#)

Speaker: JanMarie Ward Olmstead, MPA, Senior Public Health Policy and Project Advisor, American Indian Health Commission

"From a grandmother's perspective, I am dedicated to promoting knowledge and respect for the Native wisdom and experience from within our communities by utilizing the seven-generation principles in our everyday lives." Participants have an opportunity to develop an understanding of how the historical experience of American Indians and Alaska Natives connects to Intergenerational Trauma, ongoing discrimination, racism, lateral violence, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). They will learn how experiences over a life course and over generations have a significant impact on our health through the life course. We will explore the link between ACE and early childhood brain development and how adversity early in life increases physical, mental, and behavioral problems later in life. They will also gain knowledge about affirming generational strengths that provide a path to healing and ability to face contemporary challenges through the understanding of Seven Generation Principles. We will explore the role that culture, and traditions play in maintaining balance of physical, social, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being.

## NWA Blog

*June 23, 2022*

[INFANT FORMULA CRISIS SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT](#)

Categories: [PRODUCT RECALL TOOLKIT](#)

*June 27, 2023*

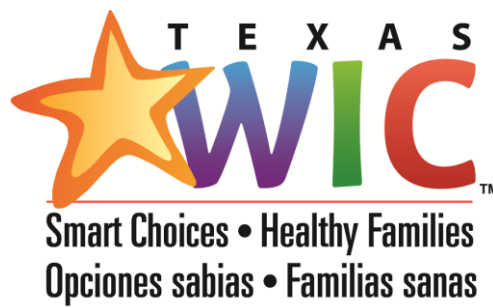
[MEET 2023 HEALTH EQUITY CHAMPION: ALEJANDRA!](#)

Meet Advocacy and Health Equity Manager at Lundquist WIC, Alejandra Arellano!

*June 7, 2023*

[MEET THE NEW NWA BOARD CHAIR: KATE FRANKEN!](#)

NWA Welcomes our new Board Chair: Kate Franken! Learn more about Kate and her visions for the future in this blog post!



### WIC Weekly Memos and Bulletins



Number	Title/Notes	Date Published
<a href="#">23-042</a>	Changes to Policy BF:03.0 - Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	06/26/2023
<a href="#">23-041</a>	New trainings, updated schedule available for June, July and August	06/13/2023
<a href="#">23-040</a>	Procedures for Disaster Victims – Hurricane Season	05/25/2023
<a href="#">23-039</a>	Expiration of COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency and Related Waivers	05/25/2023
<a href="#">23-038</a>	Pepticate & Non-Contract Formula Updates	05/23/2023
<a href="#">23-035</a>	Prenatal Breastfeeding Education Bag Order Opportunity	05/22/2023
<a href="#">23-034</a>	Virtual WIC Directors' Orientation	05/22/2023
<a href="#">23-037</a>	Approved Vendors Authorized to Drop Ship Formula	05/22/2023
<a href="#">23-036</a>	FY24 NEBF Plan	05/22/2023
<a href="#">23-033</a>	Register for Santa Fe Community College Summer and Fall 2023 Nutrition Courses	05/12/2023

## Survey: Shopping Material and Nutrition Ed or BF Reinforcement Item Orders - DUE 07/14/2023

Please fill out this survey by **Friday July 14, 2023** to indicate how many **September 2023** Texas WIC Shopping Materials you would like to receive, and if you would like to receive specific Nutrition Education or Breastfeeding Reinforcement Items in **January 2024**.

[https://texaswic.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6ta6RTINQXtf3Yq](https://texaswic.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ta6RTINQXtf3Yq)

## Live Trainings Coming Soon

Check out the [Live Training Schedule](#) for full details on upcoming training opportunities.

**Please Note:** There are no Lunch and Learn Trainings scheduled this week due to the holiday.

### Lunch and Learn: Reminders for Reopening



**Date:** Tuesday, July 11

**Time:** 1-2 pm CST

This training will provide a high-level overview of standard practices and innovations implemented during the pandemic to help comply when waivers expire. [Join Here](#).

### July 2023 Virtual TXIN Training



**Day 1:** Tuesday, July 11

**Time:** 1-5 pm CST

Join State WIC staff as they demonstrate how to complete tasks in TXIN. Attendees can participate in hands-on practice during each session. This is a 4-part training. Full schedule available on [registration page](#).



# 2023 Texas WIC NBF Conference

Growing Stronger Together  
June 21-23, 2023 Austin, Texas





## TALWD 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AWARD NOMINATIONS

### Art Fuston:

- Jessica Neal – She is always eager to help and support TALWD. She graciously has given her time to coordinate learning sessions for report building and dashboards in TXIN. She took time to gather all director information and share TXIN reports. This takes an extensive amount of time to coordinate and complete. She also worked to coordinate the last annual TALWD meeting-from coordinating hotel accommodations, working with the museum, and moderating the virtual components of the meeting. Anytime she is asked to help, she is always there. She provides her time as the Nutrition Education Committee chair, as a technology task force member, Treasurer activities/reporting, and participates and provides feedback on pilot programs. When our members need her support, she provides a shoulder to lean on. She is so deserving to this award.
- Jennifer Ranspot – Jennifer provides advice, support and time continuously to many areas of TALWD. She has been working to help develop the Director's Tools found on the TALWD website and serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. She serves on the Technology task force and participates in multiple areas to provide feedback to the state and advocate for advancing our technology needs. The word "no" does not seem to be in her vocabulary and works tirelessly to aid all TALWD efforts. She is always willing to step-up and fill in gaps when needed and provides encouragement and support for new members. She brings a unique and valuable perspective to TALWD as she also functions as a certifying authority for her local agency. It can be challenging for Directors of smaller local agencies to find time to be active in TALWD while completing daily duties. For this and many more reasons, she is incredibly deserving of this award.

### Newcomer:

- Jenifer Gregory – As a new Director, she jumped right in and began attending TALWD meetings and became part of the board as the Panhandle Representative without hesitation. I always admire her point of view on specific WIC topics, even if the conversation is not always an easy one to be had. Every time I have a conversation with her, I am impressed with her knowledge and perspective on WIC issues. She is outspoken and confident in her point of view and yet listens to the ideas of other directors. It is a joy to work with her!

### Customer Service:

- Belinda Saunders – She is always a pleasure to work with, knowledgeable about WIC policies, and responds to Local Agency questions in a timely manner. Belinda goes the extra mile when assisting with developing approval requests.
- Juliette Coronado – She has worked diligently to implement the Texas WIC shopping app which has progressed to the myWIC app. She is the subject matter expert (SME) for the WIC Shopping guide and myWIC. She spends many hours entering all required foods data and details as well as, uploading different food images. Juliette is part of the team responsible for finding solutions to reported problems. She is pleasant to work with, has great ideas and suggestions and answers emails quickly.