

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- National Updates
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Shopping Grant – Tina
- Winnie/HuBERT Updates – Tami
- Cash Value Benefits (CVB) reminder – Tami
- WIC Conference Reminder - Carole

National Updates- Kate

WIC Funding

The current Continuing Resolution (CR) is set to expire this Friday, Jan. 19, for federal programs funded in the Agriculture Bill, like WIC. While we were hearing back in December that Congress was unlikely to issue another short-term funding solution like a CR, we have seen steps in Congress over the weekend to do just that and potentially put in place another short-term CR that would take WIC through early March. This would avoid a partial government shutdown and give Congress more time to negotiate on spending bills.

Minnesota WIC has received second quarter funding from USDA, which we believe would cover program costs through April. This is reassuring in case there were a short-term federal government shutdown, the program could cover costs into the Spring. The longer-term question of what full-year funding will be for the WIC Program is still in question and so uncertainty remains about ability to continue serving all eligible participants if WIC funding levels are cut.

Authorization for the expanded fruit and vegetable benefit would likely be continued with another CR as it has with the previous CRs this fiscal year. Tami Matti will be providing some reminders a bit later in the call about issuance of the fruit and vegetable benefit and adjustments that we will make with our contractors on the back end.

Other Program Updates

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Shopping Grant – Tina

Last week in the Weekly Update (WU), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) modernization grant funding was announced to improve the shopping experience for LEP participants. More information can be found on the website page [Additional Funding for Local WIC Agencies](#). We look forward to seeing your creative ideas!

Winnie/HuBERT Updates – Tami

Servers are moving from Kansas to Texas over the next five months. We will provide dates for these weekends as the final schedule is firmed up. During this process, it is especially important that all users follow the established HuBERT hours. The HuBERT software, Reports Environment and Infoview are only available during the following hours:

- Monday - Friday between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Saturday between 7 a.m. and Noon.
- Sunday between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The WIC Information System **must not** be used after-hours. This information can be found on the website [Local Agency HuBERT/WINNIE Support](#). We will notify agencies of further updates.

Many of these moves will happen over weekends and during those times all HuBERT environments will be unavailable. Watch the Weekly Update and Thursday HuBERT/WINNIE communications for additional information.

For WINNIE, we are waiting on sharing out a new roll out schedule until we have further information about the server moves and updates. We anticipate this will be in February.

Although we delayed our pilot/rollout, other states within the user group have moved forward. The State of Maine WIC program started pilot on 1/8/24 across their state. Since their caseload is much smaller than Minnesota (17,000) they rolled out across their state all at once. Others in the user group will begin pilot soon, Montana in March and Mississippi in April, with each of these rollouts we will learn more to ensure that Minnesota's pilot is smooth.

Cash Value Benefits (CVB) reminder – Tami

If a short-term Continuing Resolution is approved, the State is working with our contractors to perform the back-end benefit changes for February and March. Should we move forward with it we will perform this process on Tuesday January 30th. We will provide more information next week after the funding deadline has passed.

WIC Conference Reminder - Carole

The in-person Minnesota training conference is coming Thursday, September 26, 2024. We continue to line up speakers and develop the agenda. As a bonus, we will have a virtual preconference event. As part of the live event, we will be celebrating 50 years of WIC! More details will be posted on the [MN WIC 2024 Training Conference](#) as they develop.

Questions & Answers

Will you send out an update once we know more about funding? And how that will impact CVB?

Yes, information about funding and the CVB will be communicated as soon as the information is available.

Are there any Nutramigen updates?

The vendor team continues regular conversations with Mead Johnson. This was a small recall, and many stores have Nutramigen available on the shelf again. However, if there are supply issues in your area, you can order through the state office.

Any updates on Hemocue 301 from the ARPA grant?

If your agency requested Hemocue 301 devices, you will be contacted by the state office with further details about the ordering process.

Are there NWA cookbook ordering updates?

Yes, a shipment of cookbooks has gone out. NWA will be sending another shipment of cookbooks, so if you haven't received them yet, they will be sent shortly. We are waiting on a confirmation of the next shipping date from NWA. Once your agency receives your order, please complete the survey confirming that you have received your order, you can share any additional comments about your order on the survey that was shared in the Weekly Update and can be found at this survey link, [NWA Recipe Book](#).

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

[Additional Funding for Local WIC Agencies](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/addfunding.html>)

[Local Agency HuBERT/WINNIE Support](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/mnhelpdesk.html>)

[MN WIC 2024 Training Conference](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/24conference.html>)

[NWA Recipe Book](https://survey.vovici.com/se/56206EE34D2209FF) (<https://survey.vovici.com/se/56206EE34D2209FF>)

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