

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- National Updates
- Overview of WIC Food Package Changes – Jessie and Rebecca
- Winnie Update – Tami
- WIC Conference Plans – Carole
- Online Shopping Project Update – Jessie

National Updates - Kate

Congress Working on FY 2025 Appropriations

USDA has requested \$7.7 billion in funding for WIC, which is an increase of approximately \$700 million over FY 2024 WIC funding. This increase will be necessary to continue to meet caseload demands and accommodate high food prices. The House and Senate have begun gathering input and discussing funding proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2025.

Farm Bill Proposals Out

The House and Senate committees released Farm Bill frameworks in early May. The Farm Bill authorizes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

Other Program Updates

Overview of WIC Food Package Changes – Jessie and Rebecca

Jessie shared an overview of the WIC Food package changes. We will be asking for input for MN food packages from local agencies and participants. To look more closely at the food packages, you can view the following:

- [NWA New WIC Food Package Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [USDA WIC Food Packages](#)
- [Revised WIC Food Packages](#)

Winnie Update – Tami

Tami pointed to Winnie information on webpage [WINNIE Information System](#) and referenced these resources:

- **Winnie Training modules** (training modules will take about 3 – 8 hour days to complete)
 - They are added as they are completed, with all to be completed by mid-June.
 - They were not developed in the order that you complete a certification; the functions that were most different between HuBERT and WINNIE were completed first.
- **Pilot & Rollout Schedule**
- **Readiness Guide**

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- This starts 4 months prior to rollout, but you can start reviewing the document and performing some database clean up by running the reports to remove incomplete Certs and MCAs as well as making sure that all WIC Cards are assigned to an Auth/Alt Rep instead of a Participant ID row.
- Nicole will send reminders to the Local Agency Coordinators 4 months prior to the rollout weeks with a reminder to begin looking at the Readiness Guide if not started yet.
- **Transitions Guide**
 - The transition guide should be reviewed by all staff as soon as Pilot begins. There are a handful of issues for the transition related to HuBERT that should be noted.
 - The transition guide is a living document and will be updated as new issues are found. Do not print it; this will ensure that all staff are using the most up to date version.
 - The current version of the document is from 10/25/23. We will be receiving a release next week that will resolve a number of bugs that are currently in the transition guide; it will be updated to remove these in early June.

Watch [WINNIE the Scoop! Newsletters](#) for more information.

WIC Conference Plans – Carole

Carole reviewed information on the [MN WIC 2024 Training Conference](#) page. Continue to check the page for updated conference information as it becomes available. The Preconference will be virtual on the [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\) Learning Center](#). Registration and agenda for the in-person event is coming soon!

Local Agency Supplemental funding is available for all staff members (peers included): Must be >60 miles from venue and there is a \$500.00 max for any county, tribal or CAP agency. The [MN WIC 2024 Training Conference Letter of Support](#) is available on the conference webpage.

Online Shopping Project Update – Jessie

With the success of the HyVee online shopping project, Minnesota will expand to 27 other HyVee stores on May 27, 2024. Nebraska and Iowa are participating in this project and will also be rolling out online shopping at additional HyVee stores.

Data from the pilot HyVee store at the Brooklyn Park location shows increasing online WIC redemptions and those sales have now exceeded \$10,000. We are seeing repeat WIC online shoppers; one WIC shopper has completed eleven WIC transactions. The most common online WIC redeemed foods are the fruit and vegetable cash value benefits followed by milk and infant formula. Following today's call there will be an online training for WIC staff in locations where additional HyVee stores will roll out.

Questions & Answers

Are there any other possibilities where WINNIE rollout could be delayed?

There are no other anticipated delays with rollout at this time.

Are volunteers needed to help at the conference?

We will be evaluating the need and will share in the Weekly Update if a need is identified.

Will other stores besides HyVee offer online shopping for WIC in the future?

Currently there are other states piloting WIC online shopping solutions with various stores. We hope as they develop their solutions, we might be able to adopt those in Minnesota. The timeline is unknown.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

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NWA New WIC Food Package Social Media Toolkit

(https://media.nwica.org/new%20wic%20food%20package%20comms%20toolkit%20april%202024.pdf?utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Realtime+Email+Digest)

USDA WIC Food Packages (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/food-packages>)

Revised WIC Food Packages (<https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/topic/wic-food-packages/wic-food-packages>)

WINNIE Information System

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

WINNIE the Scoop! Newsletters

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

MN WIC 2024 Training Conference

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

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Learning Center

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/tools/learningcenter.html>)

MN WIC 2024 Training Conference Letter of Support

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/supportconf.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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