

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 10, 2018

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

TO Mayor Pro Tem Casey Thomas, II (Chair), Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Councilmember Omar Narvaez, Councilmember Mark Clayton, Councilmember B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT **WIC Program Overview**

Purpose

On September 17, 2018, the Human and Social Needs Committee will be briefed on the WIC program. The briefing will provide an overview of the program and its impact, provide information on eligibility and operations in Dallas, highlight issues related to declining participation, and share plans for FY2019 related to program operations and implementation.

Background

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC, was established to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. The program provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care services.

WIC is administered at the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, which provides funding to the States for program operations. The Health and Human Services Commission in Texas distributes these funds to a variety of state and local organizations, which are known as “local agencies”. The Local Agency 07 program contract has been administered by the City of Dallas since 1976 and serves citizens throughout Dallas County. WIC provides services at 16 clinic sites in Dallas County, 10 of which are within the city of Dallas.

WIC Eligibility

WIC applicants must meet multiple criteria to be considered eligible for WIC services. These include categorical requirements (woman who is pregnant and up to 6 weeks after birth of an infant or end of pregnancy, postpartum up to 6 months after the birth of an infant or end of pregnancy, breastfeeding up to infant’s first birthday, and children up to 5th birthday), residential (Texas resident), and income (up to 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines).

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Additionally, WIC is designed to serve clients with nutrition risk, meaning that the individual has a medical-based or dietary-based condition, such as anemia, underweight, poor pregnancy, teen pregnancy, and poor diet. Applicants must be seen by a health professional such as a physician, nurse, or nutritionist to determine if the individual is at nutrition risk.

WIC Outcomes

Multiple studies have found that WIC participation is associated with improved birth outcomes and reductions in maternal and newborn health care costs after birth. WIC participation is also linked with longer gestation periods, higher birthweights and lower infant mortality resulting in reduced Medicaid costs.

Participation Trends

WIC participation has been trending downwards for several years. A large portion of the overall WIC program funding received by the City is based on participation rates. Explanations for these downward trends include improving economy and lack of awareness among potentially eligible participants. Additionally, WIC experts believe the Department of Homeland Security’s rumored proposal to expand the public charge test has created concerns among many immigrant families that they may be penalized accessing WIC services and contributing to decreased participation levels.

Year	Participation	Percentage Change (from prior year)
FY2014	1,138,093	
FY2015	1,104,535	-2.95%
FY2016	1,042,162	-5.65%
FY2017	985,565	-5.43%
FY2018	912,000	-7.42%

FY2019 Planning

In FY19, the Office of Community Care plans to conduct a market analysis and site evaluation of all clinic and program sites and to evaluate and analyze the WIC staffing model. Additionally, staff will strive to increase participation where possible through outreach and collaborative efforts and will work with the Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs as well as community partners to better understand the expected and potential impact of public charge policies on WIC programming and participation.

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Funding Impact

The FY2018 WIC grant amount was \$14,821,700 based on a projected annual participation and benefit issuance of 912,000.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Human and Social Needs Committee forward FY2019 WIC contract to full City Council for authorization.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.



Nadia Chandler Hardy
Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor Interim
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors

WIC Program Overview

Human and Social
Needs Committee

September 17, 2018

Jessica Galleshaw,
Managing Director

Nadia Chandler Hardy
Assistant City Manager
Chief Resilience Officer

Office of Community Care



City of Dallas

Overview

- Purpose
- Background
- Program Eligibility
- WIC Services
- Collaborations & Outreach
- Participation Trends
- Economic Impact

Purpose

- Provide an overview of the WIC program and its impact
- Provide information on program eligibility requirements and operations in Dallas
- Highlight issues related to declining participation rates
- Share plans for FY2019 related to program operations and implementation

Background

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC, was established to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk
- WIC provides:
 - Nutritious foods to supplement diets
 - Information on healthy eating
 - Breastfeeding support
 - Referrals to health care.
- Administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Federal grants are provided to States for program operations.
- In Texas, Health and Human Services Commission distributes these funds to a wide variety of State and local organizations known as “Local Agencies”.
- The Local Agency 07 WIC Program contract has been under the City of Dallas umbrella since 1976 and serves citizens throughout Dallas County.

Program Eligibility

- Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:
- Categorical
 - Women – Pregnant (during pregnancy and up to 6 weeks after the birth of an infant or end of the pregnancy).
 - Postpartum (up to 6 months after the birth of the infant or the end of the pregnancy)
 - Breastfeeding (up to the infant's first birthday)
 - Infants (up to the infant's first birthday)
 - Children (up to the child's fifth birthday)
- Residential – must reside within the state of Texas
- Income – must not be more than 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

Program Eligibility – Nutrition Risk

- Nutrition Risk Requirement means that an individual has medical-based or dietary-based conditions such as:
 - Anemia
 - Underweight
 - Poor Pregnancy Outcome
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Poor Diet
- Applicant's height and weight must be measured and bloodwork taken to check for anemia. An applicant must have at least one of the medical or dietary conditions on the State's list of WIC nutrition risk criteria.
- Applicants must be seen by a health professional such as a physician, nurse, or nutritionist who must determine whether the individual is at nutrition risk.

WIC Outcomes

- WIC participation is associated with:
 - Improved birth outcomes
 - Reductions in maternal and newborn health care costs after birth
 - Longer gestation periods
 - Higher birthweights
 - Lower infant mortality
 - Reduced Medicaid costs.

WIC Services – Supplemental Foods



Tailored Food Packages for all categories of clients



Benefits are loaded onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card



WIC Services – Nutrition Education



Moms in Motion
12 Week Diabetes Prevention Program



Cooking Matters
6 week Cooking Class



Summer Reading & Nutrition



Bulletin Board Classes

WIC Services - Breastfeeding Promotion & Support



The WIC Lactation Care Center

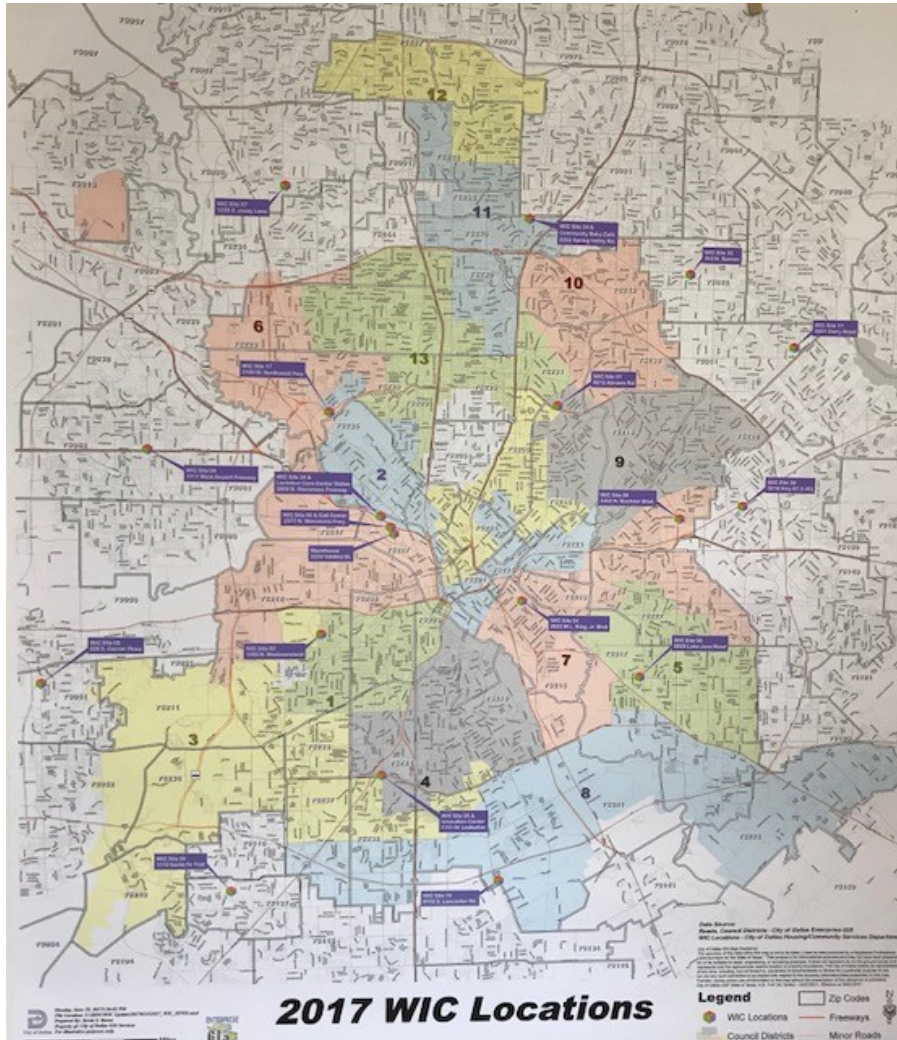


Breastfeeding Support Groups



Lactation Consultants Assist Breastfeeding Moms

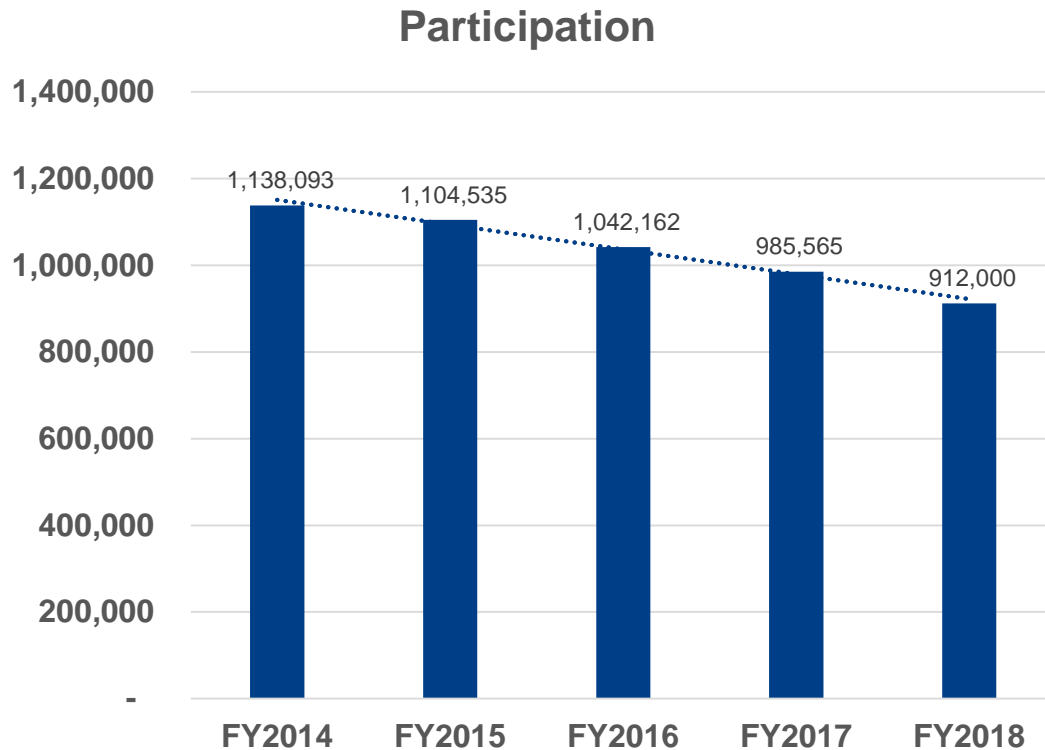
WIC Service Locations



WIC provides services at 16 clinic sites throughout Dallas County:

- Dallas – 10
- Garland – 2
- Mesquite – 1
- Duncanville – 1
- Carrollton – 1
- Irving – 1

Participation Trending Downward



Why?

- Improved economy
- Lack of awareness
- Concerns related to “public charge” policies

Economic Impact of WIC Program

- \$14,821,700 – FY2018 WIC grant based on projected annual participation and benefit issuance of 912,000.
- \$4,241,032 – Amount Dallas County grocers were reimbursed in April 2018 for purchases made with Texas Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

FY2019 Program Implementation Goals

- Program Operational Analysis
 - Conduct market analysis and site evaluation for all WIC program sites
 - Analyze and evaluate WIC staffing model (impact of recent TXIN system upgrade)
- Program Implementation
 - Strive to increase participation (decrease rate of decline) by eligible clients through outreach and collaborative efforts
 - Partner with WCIA and community partners to better understand the expected/potential impact of “public charge” policies on WIC participation

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Appendix



Program Eligibility

- Income Standards – effective June 1, 2018

Family Size	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	Twice Monthly	Monthly	Annual
1	432	864	936	1,872	22,459
2	586	1,172	1,269	2,538	30,451
3	740	1,479	1,602	3,204	38,443
4	893	1,786	1,935	3,870	46,435
5	1,047	2,094	2,268	4,536	54,427
6	1,201	2,401	2,601	5,202	62,419

- Automatic Income Eligibility – if applicant receives SNAP benefits, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

WIC Community Partners

- Community Council of Greater Dallas Medicaid/CHIP Outreach
- Child Care Group – Born Learning Program & HOPES Navigator
- Dallas Healthy Start
- Every Child Ready to Reach – Dallas Public Library
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY Program)
- Kids in the Game
- LaunchAbility ECI
- Maximus
- North Texas Food Bank SNAP Outreach & Food 4 Health
- Parkland Nurse Family Partnership
- WINGS (Formerly YMCA Nurse Family Partnership)