

## WIC FACT SHEET

### Legislative History

Full title: Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Authorized in 1972 on experimental basis, by amending the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. PL 94-105, enacted in Oct. 1975, extended program through FY'78 at annual funding of \$250. 1st clinic opened in Kentucky in Jan. 76.

### Eligibility

Pregnant women, lactating women, and women up to 6 mo. postpartum; infants up to 1 yr. of age; and children up to 5 yrs. of age who are "at nutritional risk" due to inadequate nutrition and income.

### Food

Participants receive free each month \$20 worth of high-protein, high-mineral, and high-vitamin foods. Only certain foods can be purchased under WIC.

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Women and Children</u>
iron-fortified formula	milk or cheese
infant cereal	cereal
fruit juice	fruit juices
	eggs

### Delivery Systems

- 1) retail purchase: participant receives voucher from clinic, redeems for WIC foods at food store
- 2) home delivery: commercial dairy delivers WIC foods to participants' homes at specified intervals; vouchers may or may not be used
- 3) direct distribution: participant comes to clinic to pick up foods

Federal government reimburses all food costs, and 20% of food costs as an administrative fee. Federal government provides general guidance for the programs, but basic responsibility for program is held by the states and local program areas.

### Nutritional Education

Jan. '76 regs required that WIC provide nutritional education at clinics, but before this, many already offered it. Urban Institute study showed that in April '75, average WIC clinic spent 11% of its administrative outlays on nutritional education.

### Medical Health Care

Bonus to the WIC program has been increased usage of health care facilities by participants. Participants report a 38.1% increase in utilization of health clinics, either because of earlier or more frequent visits. Possible reasons:

- 1) medical exams required to determine eligibility of participants
- 2) participants already at health clinic for food, so stay for medical

services as well

3) WIC programs promote an awareness of health matters

#### Statistics

870,000 women on the program nationally, with an increased load of 500,000 recently granted by USDA

Kansas began WIC program on Feb. 1, 1974, with case load of about 2,500. For past year, has been operating at 3,092

Kansas requested case load increase of 6,000, but received only 593 new cases from USDA in early June '76

Lawsuit was filed against USDA on March 3, 1976 because of impoundment of funds which had not been used, and which were not being added to FY'76 funds. Judge ruled in favor of plaintiff, Department filed a petition for a stay, which was denied July 1. It is expected that the Department will file an appeal during the week of July 5, but until they do so, USDA is technically violating court order by not expanding the WIC program.