

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Health Department
Program Contact: BARTHOLOMEW Ellen

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Health and nutrition screening, nutrition education, vouchers for nutritious foods, and referrals to health and social services is the framework for the Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program. WIC provides monthly food vouchers for specific foods, breastfeeding ed and support, and Farmer's Market coupons for fruits and vegetables at local farmer's markets. This program provides access to affordable and nutritious food to nutritionally and medically at risk pregnant and postpartum women and children under the age of five with household incomes of less than 185% of federal poverty level. In addition to the significant benefit to the women and children served by the program, WIC supports local businesses. The value of vouchers redeemed in Mult Co in FY05 was \$10,505,179 and local farmers received \$127,800 through redemption of WIC Farmer's Market coupons.

Program Description

WIC's nutrition education emphasis on wise food choices and physical activity reduces childhood obesity and other chronic diseases. WIC provides monthly food vouchers for specific healthy foods, farmer's market coupons for fruits and vegetables, and support for breastfeeding mothers as key components. WIC encourages access to early prenatal care and is a gateway service that helps women access health care resources. WIC also provides screening for iron deficiency and foods rich in iron to combat childhood anemia. WIC both reduces incidence of nutritional and medical risks such as inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight, and low iron levels and provides support and education to help reduce the impact of these risks. WIC partners with Early Childhood Services, Healthy Birth Initiative, Head Start, and other programs serving high risk women and children. Minority and ethnic groups, with over 36 languages spoken, are served by bilingual, multi-cultural staff, keeping interpretation costs <\$7,000/yr. Client demographics: 42% white (18% Russian speakers), 34.5% Hispanic, 12.2% African Am, 7.7% Asian, 1.3% Am Native.

Program Justification

WIC participation decreases hunger rates and health care costs and improves prenatal outcomes by providing health and nutrition screening, nutrition education, vouchers for nutritious foods and referral to health and social services. Nearly half of the 9,300 infants born to Multnomah County women each year participate in WIC, receiving screening, nutrition education and referrals. Total value of WIC funding to Multnomah County residents in FY05 was \$13.5 million. This program is a key component in meeting Basic Living Needs for Multnomah County residents. National studies show that each dollar spent on prenatal WIC services saves two to three dollars in health care costs in the infant's first two months of life.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Average caseload served each month	18,530	18,565	18,565	18,565
Outcome	Percentage of WIC mothers initiating breastfeeding	60%	60%	60%	60%

Performance Measure - Description

WIC grant assurances require maintenance of caseload between 98-103% of assigned monthly caseload, current assignment is 18,565. Unduplicated clients served per year: FY04: 17,335 FY05: 31,144 The avg number of mothers in Oregon who breastfeed is 75%, WIC mothers are typically much lower. Breastfed infants have reduced risk of SIDS, protection against infection, lower health care costs, improved IQ; risk of death by any cause is reduced by 20%.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$577,500	\$1,583,887	\$709,817	\$1,763,564
Contracts	\$2,093	\$5,741	\$2,520	\$6,007
Materials & Supplies	\$18,129	\$49,721	\$41,702	\$19,630
Internal Services	\$136,588	\$495,401	\$126,523	\$431,173
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$734,310	\$2,134,750	\$880,562	\$2,220,374
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$49,534	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$148,163	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$197,697	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$734,310	\$2,134,750	\$1,078,259	\$2,220,374
Program Total:	\$2,869,060		\$3,298,633	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	10.65	27.43
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$110,333	\$0	\$97,448	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$2,134,748	\$0	\$2,220,374
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$110,333	\$2,134,748	\$97,448	\$2,220,374

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40048, The Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Program

Federal regulations now require that WIC food vouchers be picked up in person and the current practice of mailing vouchers in months when appointments are not scheduled is discontinued. Clients must attend eligibility or nutrition education appointments and pick up vouchers a minimum of once each 3 months, resulting in approximately 6,200 clinic visits per month. Vouchers are now printed and issued at each visit, increasing staff time per client. Clients must attend nutrition education or risk forfeiting vouchers. Three FTE of Information and Referral Specialist have been returned to the WIC grant budget from the Call Center budget.