

Item Title: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - WIC Program

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$138,094 of federal revenue and expenditures in the General Fund from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFW) for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget fund.

Background: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is designed to provide food to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women and their infants and children until the age of five. In addition, the program offers a combination of nutrition education, supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, breastfeeding peer counseling and referrals for health care. The WIC Program has proven effective in preventing and improving nutrition-related health problems within its population.

The Wake County FY26 amended budget for the WIC Program is \$4,209,352. Through the WIC Agreement Addendum for FY2026 an increase of \$138,094 has been awarded, increasing the total budget to \$4,347,446. This increase is due to increased participation in the WIC program, and an increase in the per-participant rate.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 4: By 2029, three out of four residents asked will indicate low barriers to accessing benefits and assistance programs and resources, such as food and utilities, childcare, employment services, housing, etc.

Fiscal Impact: The agreement provides an additional amount of \$138,094 in federal funds in the Public Health General Fund for the WIC Program. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

The Wake County Public Health WIC Program aims to improve pregnancy outcomes, increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates, reduce maternal and early childhood morbidity and mortality, and maximize the growth and development of children through improved nutritional status.

Funding for the WIC Program comes from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the Community Nutrition Services Section (CNSS) within the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The CNSS pays all WIC Program food costs directly and reimburses local agencies monthly for their program operation costs. The CNSS uses a per participant funding formula to establish the funding allocations for local agencies. Based on their total allocation, local agencies must submit a projected annual budget for each program activity. Budgets for local agencies are submitted with their WIC Agreement Addendum and budgets for non-local agencies are submitted prior to their contract being developed for the next contract period.

This funding increase will enhance the WIC Program’s ability to continue to provide supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health care for low-income persons during critical periods of growth and development.

The additional funds will be allocated for temporary and contract services, including nutritionists and coordinators, to implement new food package updates and ensure full compliance with federal processing standards. Unmet need due to staffing gaps, FML absences, food package rollout, and record caseloads; extra support critical to meet federal guidelines.

Budget Category	Cost
Temporary Services	\$100,000
Contractual Services	\$38,094
Total Costs	\$138,094

The table below displays the funding amounts that Public Health has been awarded from NCDHHS to deliver WIC services over the last five fiscal years along with the assigned Monthly Base Caseload.

Program	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
WIC DHHS Allocation	\$3,265,842	\$3,587,990	\$4,029,816	\$4,054,092	\$4,347,446
Assigned Base Caseload	18,012	18,012	20,230	20,230	22,226

Attachments:

1. FY25-26 Agreement Addendum – 403 NCDHHS WIC Agreement
2. Budget Memo – FY2026 Human Services