



MODERN WIC ACT

What is WIC?

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a public nutrition program that provides foods and nutrition education to improve nutrition risks, like anemia, and links families to resources to help meet basic needs.
- WIC is for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, and after the birth of their babies (postpartum) and infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk and meet income guidelines.
- WIC is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, which oversees federal grants and provides technical assistance to states, territories, and tribal organizations to run the program. Women and families receive services in-person through local WIC clinics and also online.
- WIC serves about 6.8 million participants each month and reaches 4 of 10 babies born in the United States. Participation has been increasing in 2025, yet WIC still reaches only about half of the 12.5 million people eligible to receive WIC benefits (USDA).

The Modern WIC Act ([H.R. 1464](#)/to be introduced in the Senate)

The More Options to Develop and Enhance Remote Nutrition in WIC (Modern WIC) Act streamlines access to WIC certification and benefits and adds flexibility. The Modern WIC Act

- is bi-partisan, sponsored Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR);
- makes permanent the ability of participants to certify their eligibility for, and receive benefits through, WIC at or outside of a local WIC office;
- continues program certification, recertification, or a nutritional risk evaluations by phone or through video teleconference, in addition to in-person options;
- allows state agencies to provide benefits on WIC electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards through mail or remote issuance instead of requiring participants to travel to a local WIC office to pick up or reload benefits;
- maintains the delivery of services in a way that people experience health services, both in person and online.
- Without Congressional action, the waivers providing authority for virtual certifications will expire this year, 2026.

For more information

[USDA, The WIC Program](#) [WIC State Profiles](#) , National WIC Association

[Support the Modern WIC Act](#) , National WIC Association

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