



- PURPOSE:** To describe the mission and administration of the Nutrition and Health Screening (WIC) Program.
- APPENDICES:** Appendix A 140.2 Agency and Function Chart
Appendix B 140.3 Oregon WIC Program Mission Statement
- BACKGROUND:**
- 1.0 The special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (commonly known as WIC) was established by the Federal Government in 1972 as a pilot program. At that time, Public Law 92-433 extended WIC to some half million pregnant women and infants in low-income areas for the first time. The Oregon WIC Program opened its first five projects, and served 5,000 participants in 1974. In 1975 WIC was made a permanent program and in 2014 provided WIC nutrition services to approximately 8.3 million individuals throughout the United States.
 - 2.0 The WIC Program is a federally funded nutrition education food supplement program for low income, pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding women and children under five years of age who are at nutritional risk.
- Administration of program*
- 3.0 In Oregon the WIC Program is part of the Nutrition & Health Screening Section in the Oregon Public Health Division and is administered by the Oregon Health Authority. See Appendix A, Agency and Function Chart, for an explanation of the agencies involved in administering the program, starting with U.S. Congress on a national level to regional, state and local levels.
 - 4.0 The overall purpose of the WIC Program is to ensure that Oregon families have the resources and knowledge to achieve optimal nutrition and lifelong health through the provision of premier public health nutrition services.
- Mission statement*
- 5.0 In the fall of 2011, the Oregon WIC Program updated its program Mission Statement. See Appendix B for this Mission Statement.
- Program services*
- 6.0 The program provides the following services to accomplish this goal:
 - **participant-centered nutrition education** to relate good nutrition to their health and dietary habits;

ORGANIZATIONAL: Purpose & Chart, cont.

- **breastfeeding promotion and support**
- **screening** for anemia, poor growth patterns, inadequate diet, and other nutrition problems and needs;
- **monthly benefits used to purchase nutritious foods** to prevent or improve nutrition-related medical problems; and
- **referrals** to other health or social services. ★

- REFERENCES:**
1. National WIC Association web page: <http://www.nwica.org>
 2. US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, WIC Program Data page: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm>

**If you need this in large print or an alternate format,
please call (971) 673-0040.
WIC is an equal opportunity program and employer.**

Agency and Function Chart

U.S. Congress

Creates the law authorizing the WIC Program and appropriating funds. WIC must be reauthorized every five years as part of the Child Nutrition Programs reauthorization.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

Administers national WIC program, including development of funding formula and issuance of rules and regulations.

Western Regional USDA-FNS Office (San Francisco)

Provides state contact with USDA. Reviews state and local agencies in the Western Region.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, State WIC Office

Provides contracts with county health departments, tribes and non-profits. Provides fiscal management. Develops State Plan of Operation and Procedure Manual. Provides consultation and training to local agencies and reviews program operations biennially. Manages vendor contracts and ensures program integrity. Provides data system development and support.

Local WIC Program

Develops the local WIC budget and Nutrition Education Plan. Determines eligibility and provides services to eligible participants.

Oregon Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

Vision: Oregon families have the resources and knowledge to achieve optimal nutrition and lifelong health.

Mission: Assure the provision of premier public health nutrition services by providing leadership, guidance and resources to local WIC programs, vendors and partners.