



KEY WIC FUNDING & POLICY ISSUES

Funding

- **FY 2011:** CWA is very concerned about the proposed significant cuts to the WIC Program recently included in the House Continuing Resolution. If these cuts are adopted, it is possible that within the next year local agencies would have to turn away eligible women with young children who apply for WIC benefits. **Support full funding at an annualized level of \$6.852 billion.**
- Carefully monitor WIC participation and **replenish the Contingency fund** if needed, for unforeseen economic circumstances such as unpredictable caseload or food cost spikes.
- **FY 2012: Support the President's proposal to fund WIC at \$7.390 billion** in order to allow local agencies to assure adequate services to all eligible families.
- Support unencumbered state **infrastructure funding at \$14 million**, and **\$60 million for MIS**, to enable state and local agencies to continue to provide quality nutrition services and make the transition to **EBT nationwide**.
- Support continued funding for **Breastfeeding Peer Counseling to \$83 million**, and increase the **Produce Cash Value Voucher for Fully Breastfeeding Women from \$10 to \$12**, as recommended by IOM and originally implemented by USDA.
- Include **\$10 million in Breastfeeding Performance Bonus** funds to state agencies that demonstrate highest levels of, or greatest improvements in, exclusive breastfeeding rates.
- Include **\$5 million to support WIC rigorous evaluation research** to document WIC's continued success in improving health and breastfeeding outcomes.

Evidence-Based WIC Management

- Include Report Language requiring USDA to **commission a scientific review of WIC formulas and other foods with additives** to determine whether a food with a particular additive confers appreciable health or developmental benefits should be offered by the WIC program.
- Include Report Language requiring USDA to commission a **scientific review of WIC Biochemical assessment and testing regulations**, so they can be updated to reflect current recommendations and common medical practice.

Breastfeeding and Community Health

- Hold hearings to examine FDA approval criteria for both the **safety and efficacy of ingredients new to infant formula**, and to review expenditures, strategies, and public **health impacts of industry marketing of infant formula to low-income women** of color in the US.
- Protect the public's health by **banning BPA** (Bisphenol A) from all food and beverage containers, starting with baby bottles and formula containers.
- Support the **Healthy Food Financing Initiative at \$330 million**, a multi-agency partnership to encourage opening of full-service grocery stores in underserved areas.
- Support the **Prevention and Public Health Fund**, a critical component of health care reform that will greatly enhance WIC's efforts to improve breastfeeding and nutrition in high-need communities.

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