



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
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May 18, 2018

Dear Friends of Public Health,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is seeking public comments for the State Plan for the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) for federal fiscal year 2019.

Enclosed you will find a WIC Nutrition Program summary, which includes federal fiscal year 2018 funding and the 2018 State Plan for your information.

We have scheduled a public hearing on Friday, June 15, 2018 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM at The WIC Learning Center, 63 Fountain Street, 3rd floor, Framingham (directions attached). Written comments may also be sent to:

Judy Hause, Director - Nutrition Division
Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program
Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition
250 Washington Street, 6th floor
Boston, MA 02108-4619

Email: Judy.Hause@state.ma.us

This hearing provides a forum for WIC local programs and agencies as well as other public health professionals and consumers to share their thoughts with the Department concerning priorities for the WIC program. I encourage you to participate on June 15th.

If you have any questions about the public hearing, you may contact me at 617-624-6145 or by email (see above). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Hause".

Judy Hause, MPH
Director – Nutrition Division
Massachusetts WIC Program

Directions to The WIC Learning Center
 63 Fountain Street, Framingham, MA 01702
 Telephone: (508) 875-8700

Public Transportation: The Purple Line Commuter Rail from South Station stops at Framingham. From the Commuter Rail station, it is a 0.6 mile walk to The Learning Center. (Approximately 10 minutes). Walk **WEST** up Route 135 to the traffic light at **FOUNTAIN St.** (Gulf Station is at the intersection). Walk **RIGHT** up to the hill. The first driveway on you **RIGHT** is Kenwood Centre. 63 Fountain St., **The WIC Learning Center** is located on the **THIRD** floor of the beige high-rise building.

From Route 128 (I-95)

- Take **Exit 20B** to **Route 9 West** (Framingham/Worcester).
- Drive 7.6 miles to **Speen St.** Exit Stay on your left, follow Speen St. signs.
- Proceed on Speen St. 1.3 miles to **Route 135.** Go **RIGHT** onto 135 (Waverly Ave.)
- Drive 2.2 miles to intersection of Route 126. **Cross 126** and continue on **Route 135** past the train station. At the traffic light, about 0.4 miles after the train station, bear **RIGHT** onto **FOUNTAIN St.**
- Drive up the short hill; First driveway on **RIGHT** is **Kenwood Centre: 63 Fountain Street The Learning Center** is on the **THIRD** floor of the beige high-rise building.

From the Mass. Pike (traveling West)

- Take **Exit 13** (Natick/Framingham) to **Route 30 West.**
- Drive 1.5 miles (you will see Shopper's World on your left, and Target mall on your right. Continue on **Route 30** past a **Shell gas-station** on your left, the road then merges with Route 9 West.
- Drive west on Route 9 for about a mile. **Take Exit 30** (Framingham/Southboro). Trolley Square will be on your right. (Same exit as Framingham State College.)
- At the traffic light, turn **LEFT.** Go straight past the next set of lights to cross over Route 9, and proceed 0.2 miles to **FRANKLIN St.**
- Turn **RIGHT** on Franklin & drive 0.6 miles to the intersection of **MOUNT WAYTE Ave.** At the Shell Station (Mt. Wayte) turn **RIGHT.**
- Stay on this road (**Mt. Wayte turns into Dudley St.**) to the end. You will see the Barbieri School on your right and a park and Farm Pond on your left. At the end of this road, turn **LEFT** onto **FOUNTAIN** Street.
- First driveway on your **LEFT** is **Kenwood Centre. The Learning Center** is on the **THIRD** floor of the beige high-rise building.

From Route 495 (North or South)

- Take **Exit 23A (Route 9 East: Southboro/Framingham)** onto Route 9 East and travel 6.2 miles. Edgewater Plaza and CVS Pharmacy are on your right.
- Turn **RIGHT** at CVS Pharmacy onto **TEMPLE St.** and travel 0.2 miles to a Stop sign: **SALEM END ROAD.**
- Turn **LEFT** onto **Salem End Rd.** and travel 0.3 miles to **WINTER St.** Turn **RIGHT** onto Winter St. and continue for 1.7 miles past Keefe Tech School to a traffic light: **FOUNTAIN St.**
- Turn **LEFT** onto Fountain St., travel 0.5 miles you will see the Loring Arena and Dudley Rd. on your left
- Immediately after you pass Dudley road, take the first driveway on your **LEFT: Kenwood Centre: 63 Fountain Street The Learning Center** is on the **THIRD** floor of the beige high-rise building.

From the Mass. Pike (traveling East)

- Take **Exit 12** (Route 9, Framingham), onto **Route 9 East** and travel 1.5 miles. Edgewater Plaza and CVS Pharmacy are on your right.
- Take **RIGHT** at CVS Pharmacy onto **TEMPLE St.** and travel 0.2 miles to a Stop sign: **SALEM END ROAD.**
- Turn **LEFT** onto Salem End Rd and travel 0.3 miles to **WINTER St.** Turn **RIGHT** onto Winter St. and continue for 1.7 miles past Keefe Tech School to a traffic light: **FOUNTAIN St.**
- Turn **LEFT** onto Fountain St., travel 0.5 miles you will see the Loring Arena and Dudley Rd. on your left.
- Immediately after you pass Dudley road, take the first driveway on your **LEFT: Kenwood Centre: 63 Fountain Street The Learning Center** is on the **THIRD** floor of the beige high-rise building.

ANNUAL STATE PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2018
FEDERAL ALLOCATION
\$77,598,265

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN NUTRITION PROGRAM (WIC)

The Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program is a federal program supplemented by state funding which serves low and moderate income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children certified as medically or nutritionally at risk. A network of 31 local programs with 116 permanent sites, 2 mobile sites and approximately 900 retail stores in communities across the Commonwealth supports WIC activities.

Funded Services:

- Nutrition education and counseling
- Breastfeeding education and support
- Dietary assessment and certification for program benefits
- Information and referral to, and coordination with, other health & social service programs
- Childhood immunization assessment and follow up
- Benefits for nutritious foods
- Farmers' Market coupons for fresh produce

WIC works in collaboration with community health care providers and other local health and human service agencies to provide coordinated, comprehensive services to families in need. Through carrying out its mandates, participation in WIC reduces infant mortality and morbidity and improves participant health outcomes.

The Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program functions as a major service component within the Nutrition Division of the Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition (BFHN), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS). WIC program services are responsive to family and community needs, sensitive to cultural and ethnic differences, and oriented to the prevention of health problems and the improvement of health outcomes. The program collaborates with the other nutrition programs in the Nutrition Division--Growth and Nutrition and PKU Support --and works directly with the other maternal and child health programs in the BFHN. Particularly, WIC coordinates with program services in the Divisions of Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Childhood, Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs, and the Early Intervention Partnerships Program and with programs in the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, including those in its Divisions of Health Access and Violence & Injury Prevention, as well as with its Prevention and Wellness Division on obesity and physical activity initiatives.

WIC also coordinates activities on issues affecting women and children with other DPH Bureaus and offices: — Substance Abuse Services, Tobacco Cessation, HIV/AIDS, and Health Equity, as well as with Immunization and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. Strong intra-agency networking and lateral communication with other DPH programs and committees on key initiatives—such as infant mortality, safe sleep, parenting support, obesity and wellness—ensure integrated policy and program development, planning and implementation.

Quality nutrition services focusing on individual service needs form the centerpiece of the program. The WIC Nutrition Program stresses the importance of good nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood for optimal growth and development. Particular emphasis is placed on providing services to high-risk populations, including

prenatal and breastfeeding women, medically or nutritionally at risk infants and children, members of ethnic minority groups, new immigrants, and pregnant adolescents.

The State WIC Office's involvement with the greater Massachusetts WIC community – local WIC agencies and staff, WIC Advisory Council, WIC Vendor Advisory Council and Medical Advisory Board members, authorized stores, participants, and advocates – identifies problems, develops solutions and affects change for program improvement. The State WIC Office also maintains a web-based computer system—with personal computers and laptops at local programs—that produces electronic benefits for participants. Federal regulations, monitoring and evaluation requirements are critical components of WIC Nutrition Program operations.

State and federal dollars provide funding for contracted WIC services in the community to serve the 2018 statewide monthly caseload assignment of 121,600. Local program attainment of service levels beyond this level depends on intensified outreach activities, increased productivity, staff, space, and computer equipment capacity as well as local economic conditions. The rate of inflation in WIC food costs, the levels of federal and supplemental state funding, and the infant formula rebate continue to be the critical determinants of the number of participants WIC is able to serve.

Through strong support of its WIC program, Massachusetts is in the forefront of providing basic nutritional assistance to needy children. Following a 1983 DPH study of nutritional status of low-income children, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to provide supplemental funds to WIC; seven other states are currently following this example. In 1993, Massachusetts enacted The Childhood Hunger Relief Act—landmark legislation that provides for full funding to guarantee that all eligible infants, children and pregnant and postpartum women may participate in WIC. Full funding makes Massachusetts the first state in the nation to ensure WIC services to 85% of all individuals estimated as eligible by the Massachusetts WIC Needs Assessment.

Priorities:

The Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program seeks input from the public regarding priorities for the program. The FY2018 program goals present a starting point for review and discussion in formulating the program priorities for the FY2019 State Plan. Each chapter of the State Plan program goals corresponds to a working unit within the State WIC Office. Sections priorities are highlighted with corresponding objectives following each goal.