

Improving Access to WIC Act

To Ease Access to Nutrition Support for Moms, Infants & Children

Congresswoman Norma Torres (CA-35)



More than 4 in 10 individuals eligible for WIC are not participating. The *Improving Access to WIC Act* closes this **gap** by helping states, tribes, and territories strengthen partnerships with healthcare providers, lower barriers to participation, and boost outreach efforts.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (known as “WIC”) not only helps participants access free, healthy foods, but also helps with breastfeeding support, nutrition education, and other health resources. In FY2025, WIC served 6.9 million mothers and children age 0 to 5 across America each month .

What the Bill Would Do:

Authorizes a \$50 million federal grant program for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 for states, tribes, and territories to make it easier for families to access, navigate, enroll in (and stay enrolled in) WIC.

Under the legislation, participating states can use grant funding to:



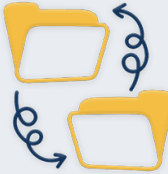
Expand outreach in trusted community settings, including Early Head Start and Preschools, to meet WIC-eligible families where they are.



Build systems to make it easier for doctors and health care providers to refer patients to WIC, including through statewide referral systems.



Strengthen partnerships between healthcare providers and WIC agencies to streamline referrals, enrollment, and certification while protecting individuals' privacy



Reduce duplicative appointments and paperwork by making it easier to provide WIC agencies with information needed for enrollment and certification (like height, weight, and blood tests).



Modernize the enrollment process, including by establishing or expanding online WIC applications.



Help WIC-eligible families already enrolled in Medicaid or SNAP connect with WIC.

The bill also requires an **public annual report on the program's outcomes**, including its impact on WIC enrollment, participation, and retention, and to share best practices that state agencies can use.