HOW WIC HELPS RHODE ISLAND

MISSION OF WIC
Assuring healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, growth and development for mothers, babies, and young children to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. Providing nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.

COVID-19 Response
Rhode Island WIC completed EBT/e-WIC rollout during the pandemic. Rhode Island received at least 9 waivers, including physical presence and extended certification periods for children.

51% of infants born in Rhode Island participated in WIC in 2017

58% of eligible individuals in Rhode Island participated in WIC in 2017

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?

21,504 WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women 1,661
Breastfeeding women 1,364
Postpartum women 1,775
Infants 5,440
Children 11,264

Rhode Island WIC participation in 2018

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC
Rhode Island WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by 17 percentage points between 2010 and 2018.

2018 78%
2010 61%

Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Rhode Island in 2018, 21 percent continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN RHODE ISLAND
The obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Rhode Island decreased by 1 percentage point between 2010 and 2016.

Obesity rate among WIC toddlers, 2016 15%

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN RHODE ISLAND
Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2010–2015 18.3
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017 5.9
Preterm birth rates, 2017 8%

RHODE ISLAND WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS
$19,959 average family income in 2018
83% received Medicaid in 2018
$44.29 average monthly food cost in FY 2019

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE RHODE ISLAND ECONOMY IN FY 2019
$9.5M to spend at food retailers
$5.1M formula rebates received
$6.3M nutrition, breastfeeding services & admin