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# WIC ASSOCIATION OF NYS

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## Newsletter

Issue No. 2 | December 2021



### FEEDBACK FROM NYS CENTRAL OFFICE

Every other month NYS WIC Association meets with WIC Staff from Central Office. Prior to our meeting your regional representative will be asking you for ideas for agenda content.

The questions below came from local agencies across NYS.

**This is how your voice is heard!**

#### General DOH Updates

##### 1. Toxic metals in baby food

*\*Has been a known issue in the industry for a few years, but recent headlines specifically spotlighted WIC, and the fact that WIC benefits include baby foods and cereal that are known to have toxic metals in them. DOH has had some internal conversations and will continue to. It is important to recognize that WIC is just one piece of the puzzle in all of this, as many foods have various levels of metals because they are found in the soil. FDA has started an initiative called Closer to Zero and the intention of this is to achieve closer to zero metals in foods. This is a combination of an environmental issue and a manufacturing issue so there is a task force that is working to try to reduce the levels of some toxic elements, like lead and arsenic. They will be working with manufactures on how to reduce these levels. DOH is looking into any and all options, and will keep us posted and they will share with the board if there are any open meetings that could be attended. Nutritionists and CPAs should continue promoting a variety of healthful foods that are nutrient dense because those foods are shown to reduce the effects of these toxic metals.*

##### 2. CVB

*\*Has been authorized through March 31, 2022. DOH has received updated guidance from FNS with clarification on the amounts. Amounts are staying the same, but a few modifications need to be made and will be spelled out very clearly.*

#### General DOH Updates, Con't

##### 3. ME Update

*\*Not much has changed since our last meeting. Central office is gearing up for the initial kick-off meeting on Monday. Normally FNS would be coming on site, but we will be doing everything remotely. Addendum: see email from NYS WIC on 12/13/21.  
\*A meeting has been set up a meet and greet by Zoom for the two local agencies that are going to be observed. Because FNS cannot come on site, they thought it would be good to host a Zoom meeting so that local agency staff would have a change to meet everyone at FNS and see their faces because they are only hearing their voices on the phone. Wanted to try to do what they could to make these agencies as comfortable as possible understanding that it is a federal audit, so everyone is probably going to be a little bit on edge. They want to assure the agencies that they are there to support them and make them feel comfortable the best way they can given, the circumstances operating in this remote environment. Those site visits are scheduled for January and Corie will be sending out an email soon talking a little bit about that, so everyone is aware.*



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## Program Communication and Collaboration

### 1. Breast Pump Disposal Policy

*\*Currently have a guidance document on the WIC library, from 2019, and it does talk about the process for disposing pumps and doing the inventory and checking the pressure. Central Office is in the process of updating it right now and are going to incorporate it into the Breast Pump WIC Program Manual section. In the meantime, staff should review that guidance document.*

### 2. Breast Pump Suction (Counseling)

*\*Work with the breast pump manufactures, they have videos on their websites that will provide that instruction. Central office will share some links to those websites where they found some of those videos. They also found an old webinar that is on the WIC library, and it's called Express Yourself; the latest evidence on how and why to express. It was suggested that at staff meetings or even at some upcoming breastfeeding coordinator meetings to invite some lactation experts to come and talk about it. Manufacturer representatives are going to have the best information for the specific pumps and recommended suction.*

### 3. WIC Breastfeeding Excellence Award

*\*An informational email was sent out reminding agencies that the WIC Breastfeeding Excellence Award application is due December 17th. There is a link to the FNS website which provides some information on what should be included in the application.*

### 4. Outreach

*\*Hunger Solutions New York has been awarded our Targeted Outreach contract. It is a 5-year contract starting as of October 1, 2021, and there is a lot of great work that is going to be happening. Central office wants to get local agencies involved and we are planning a kickoff meeting in late January with the a save the date in the next WIC Watch for Outreach coordinators which will include a statewide call to introduce Hunger Solutions New York talk about the contract, and get some initial input sending us off on a great start. More to come!*

## Quality Assurance and Nutrition

### 1. RFA Update

*\*Has since been released.*

### 2. Training

*\*NYWIC Training manual has a lot of different resources for all the new modules, not sure if it will all fit in the training manual. They have decided to make a one-page document with all of the links for all of the module trainings in one location to make it easier to get to all the different options there are for trainings. There are videos and slides incorporated into some trainings. In the future, they are looking to have a new learning management system in place, they have had some people from local agencies helping with picking out a new system.*

### 3. NSA Time Study Expenditure Summary

*\*Is not ready yet, they will be sending out a notice when local agencies can start filling everything out. This is an annual submission, not quarterly like the NSA Time Study.*

### 4. New Module inclusion into NYWIC training manual

*\*PC*

*\*Finance*

*\*LACASA*

### 5. On-line Nutrition Education Work Group

*\*Still internally working on, the on-line education and are looking for 2-3 volunteers from the association or local agencies to work with our nutrition group.*

## Food Delivery and Vendor Management

### 1. Kosher Soy Formula

*\*Central office has received several complaints regarding the new contract soy formula, Similac Isomil soy is not parve, and the Gerber Good Start was. Central office will do whatever they can to provide options for these families, but states its hands may be tied due to our manufacturer contracts.*

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## Fiscal Updates

No Fiscal updates at this time, they are just asking that local agencies and VMA's continue to reach out to your regional offices if you're having any issues processing vouchers or budget modifications in the finance module. They will work with local agencies to submit a Remedyforce ticket if there's something stuck on our end. In regards to the NSA Time Study, they will be working this week on getting those reports loaded into the finance module and a notice will go out to the local agencies and VMA's.

## Information Systems Updates

### 1. CVB- WIC Bump Extension

*\*States have approval to move forward with the CVB extension and Central office has a meeting with their MIS contractor to see what that means from a systems stand point and will be reaching out once they get things straightened out. A communication will be sent out, Central office's working goal is that agency staff does not have to do anything in the system except monitoring it, being familiar with the guidance and what you're supposed to see in a person's record and making sure you're seeing that happen. If you're not, submit a help desk ticket.*

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## 2022 Membership

### Congratulations

1. LA #211-Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties (Capital Region)
2. LA #249-Westchester County Department of Health (Metro Region)
3. LA #320-Community Action Program for Madison County Inc. (Central Region)
3. LA #323-United Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country (Central Region)
4. LA #217-Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. (Central Region)
5. LA #273-Urban Health Plan, Inc. (Metro Region)

**Our first five local agencies to have sent in their 2022 membership dues!**

Remember this is part of your agencies allowed budget!

# Happy Holidays



*from the WIC Association of NYS*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**REGISTRATION OPENS  
JANUARY 4, 2022**

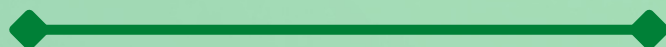
43rd Annual WIC Association of  
NYS Virtual Conference

SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 22-24, 2022

WIC Association members receive  
a \*discounted rate.

(\*Just one of the benefits of being  
a member of the WIC Association)

**\*Please think about joining our  
team!**



We currently have provider openings in  
Central and Western regions as well as  
advocate and consumer openings  
available in the Capital, Metro and  
Western Regions.

Go to our website to download an  
application and email to Cindy Walsh at  
[wicassociationofnys@gmail.com](mailto:wicassociationofnys@gmail.com)

Enter Website  
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