

# WIC ASSOCIATION OF NYS



## Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | October 2021



### FEED BACK 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. Staffing Update

*\*Dave Becker is now Capital's Regional Lead. Jordan Gobrecht is no longer with the WIC program, Samantha Phillips-Brown, Assistant Director for Bureau of Supplemental Food Programs, is supporting the fiscal management section at this time. Carol Pry is the Local Agency Unit Leader, for the Fiscal Management Section, Bureau of Supplemental Food Programs.*

##### 2. Sponsor Agency vs Central Office (CO) role

*\*LA's make sure you have a good working relationship with your sponsoring agencies, should be following their protocols and procedures. CO give directives regarding NYS and USDA WIC policies and procedures. Sponsoring Agency is responsible for onsite safety issues, site protocols, and other human resource/staffing policies.*

##### 3. Vaccine Mandate

*\*LA's must follow their sponsoring agency's policies.*

#### Program Communication and Collaboration

##### 1. Any updates on pop-up clinics?

*\*No updates at this time.*

##### 2. Why do Benefits Discontinued and HNU letters need to be scanned when no signature required.

*\*BDL and HNU letters are system generated and can't be viewed on communications screen and are mandated to be scanned. Scanning offers evidence that the letters were actually issued.*

#### Program Communication & Collaboration, Con't

##### 3. Guidance needed on how often to run the Benefits Discontinued Report most agencies run it when they have time/staffing to do so. Is there a way to automatically generate letters as this is very time consuming?

*\*RO suggest running the report weekly, NYWIC does not automatically generate the letters. LA's need to run the report and generate the letters and then scan into the system. Question arose since participants can be reinstated seamlessly, why are these letters mandatory? CO stated they will review.*

##### 4. LA's have completed a lot of surveys about reports generated in NYWIC. Can CO provide guidance on reports?

*\*DOH CO is working on correcting known issues with the reports. CO will put together a chart with information about each report, when to run it, and what information the report provides.*

##### 5. LA's seem to need further clarification on the log and how it should be utilized.

*\*PC's are mandated to log in computer to enhance consistency, no longer paper charts (daily activity Log). Travel and Prep are captured in NYWIC, staff meetings are not.*

##### 6. Nutrition Services Management Evaluation

*This year CO will be undergoing a management elevation by FNS (Food and Nutrition Services, section of the USDA) Local agencies may be chosen for site visits. At this time CO is unsure if they will be on site or virtual.*



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# FEED BACK FROM NYS CENTRAL OFFICE, CON'T

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## Program Communication & Collaboration, Con't

### 7. SLMS/ Training Platform

*\*CO has pulled together a work group to start the planning stages of an updated LMS. The new LMS will house various training opportunities and an updated library. The new training center will most likely house updated webinars and training opportunities in this location as well. Central office expects that a new training contract will be in place by June 2022. In addition, CO is in the process of creating five modules to help with on boarding new staff to the NYWIC system.*

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## Quality Assurance and Nutrition

### 1. When will the RFA be out?

*\*New contracts are expected to be in place by October 1, 2022.*

### 2. Are WIC staff going to be expected to do the early intervention checklists with participant based on recent survey monkey about that?

*\*Nothing else agencies need to do.*

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## Fiscal Updates

### 1. Has a decision been made on how technology funds will be utilized in NY?

*\*NYS has not gotten information about what or how much funding will be available to the state.*

### 2. Approval to purchase nursing bras, this is not allowable in all regions although it they are an allowable WIC expense.

*\*Current policy does put them as an allowable cost, justification must be provided.*

### 3. LA's requesting official written approval/denial letter for requests with explanation for the approval/denial.

*\*Written notification of decisions from RO is required.*

## Information Systems Update

### 1. Is there an update to the NYWIC training module?

*\*The training module should be up to date.*

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## Other

- Interest in using the Association's website as a hub for already approved documentation in relation to Nutrition education .
  - Breastfeeding Grand Rounds- November 4th-8:30-10:30.
  - CVB Increase-Northeastern state WIC directors are waiting on additional guidance how and when the CVB increase will be implemented.
  - Minimum wage increase-the DOH is looking into how funds could be made available to local agencies.
  - LA's should keep in touch with contacts at approved temp sites Be sure to keep your contact updated with the physical presence waiver and provide clear communication when WIC staff my return to temp sites. If local agencies are concerned that temp sites do not want them back please be in touch with your regional office contract managers.
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# Featured Articles

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## Legislative Committee

Thank you to the many dozens of WIC providers who reached out to your member of Congress to help #extendtheWICbump over the last few months! As your association, the WIC Association of NYS has communicated the value and importance of WIC and the importance of the CVB boost to the NYS delegation and the public; sending emails to members, relaunching our [Twitter](#) handle to participate in advocacy Tweet chats, and posting much targeted social media on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) all spring and summer long. We now turn our attention to a full CVB extension through September, 2022.

With the expanded CVB approved through December 2021, the WIC Association of NYS plans to continue to provide feedback to legislators from their constituents about how the benefit is being implemented, the response from families, and the positive impact it is having on the broader community. This is critical to ensure that the CVB increase continues beyond 2021.

Again, the Association needs your help. Please keep asking participants (and staff and vendors) to share their thoughts, and if they would be willing to have them posted on social media and/or included in a message to their Congressional Representative. We are also seeking those who may be willing to be a part of virtual group advocacy calls as needs arise in the coming weeks and months. There's no wrong way to connect with or get these comments to us: please [email](#), or DM on our social media channels.

Article submitted by:  
Misha Marvel, Legislative Committee Chair  
Child Nutrition Program Specialist  
Hunger Solutions New York

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## IMPORTANT DATES

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)

Breastfeeding Grand  
Rounds (BFGR) 2021  
will air on  
November 4th, 2021  
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

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Invoices for the upcoming 2022  
WIC Association Membership  
will be sent out in October

\*Please think about joining our  
team!



We currently have Advocate and Consumer  
openings available in the Capital, Maro and  
Western Regions.

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

Enter Website  
Here

