

COMMUNITY NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

*Providing Essential Nutrition Support for
North Carolina's Families*



WHAT WE DO:

Community Nutrition Services (CNS) runs several key programs to improve nutrition and health for families across North Carolina. These include:



Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Offers nutrition assistance to pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children under 5



WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program (BFPC) - A WIC peer counselor is a mother in the community with personal breastfeeding experience who is trained to give information and support to new moms.



WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)* - Helps families buy fresh, local produce from farmers' markets (Seasonal)



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) - Reimburses for nutritious meals and snacks served in child care centers, adult day care centers, and other community programs

These programs serve countless families across the state, including pregnant women, young children, and caregivers.

WHO WE SERVE:

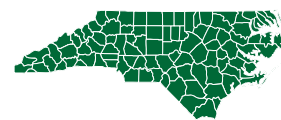
WIC serves about **258,000 women, infants, and children** each month in North Carolina, helping families who are at nutritional risk and meet income guidelines



**258,000
WOMEN
INFANTS, &
CHILDREN**

CACFP supports **3,934 North Carolina child care centers**, adult care centers, emergency shelters, and afterschool programs that **serve over 118,000 individuals daily**

**>118,000
PEOPLE
SERVED DAILY**



**Available in select counties only.*

KEY IMPACT & OUTCOMES:

WIC helps improve the health of families by:



Reducing infant mortality and low birthweight rates



Supporting breastfeeding mothers and improving their health outcomes



Decreasing iron deficiency anemia in children



Ensuring prenatal care and healthy weight gain for pregnant women



Preparing children for school by promoting healthy eating habits

CACFP supports:



Access to nutritious meals for children and adults in care programs



The provision of quality and affordable daycare

FAST FACTS

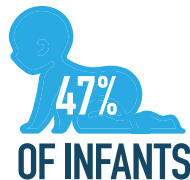
Annual Community Nutrition Services Budget:
\$380 million



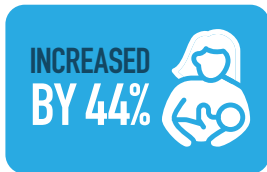
Average Monthly WIC Participation:
258,406 people



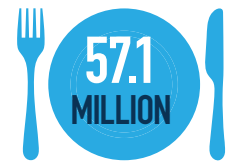
47% of infants
born in North Carolina
participate in WIC (2023)



Breastfeeding Support:
North Carolina WIC
breastfeeding initiation
rates (percentage of new
mothers who begin
breastfeeding) **increased
by 44%** between 1998
and 2022



Meals Served in 2024:
About **57.1 million meals
and snacks** reimbursed
through CACFP



Economic Impact (2024):
WIC Food Benefits: **\$198.3
million** redeemed by families



CACFP Payments: **\$102.9
million** in reimbursements
issued to child care centers,
day care homes, and adult
day care centers



Enhancing WIC Access:

In 2024, NC WIC launched the MyNCWIC Portal. This new online portal allows families to remotely interact with local WIC clinics, making it easier to access benefits

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To learn more about Community Nutrition Services, how to apply for WIC, and how the Division of Child and Family Well-Being supports North Carolina's children and families, visit ncdhhs.gov/DCFW



The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFW) consists of 1000 employees dedicated to delivering services and resources to more than 2 million children and their families in the areas of nutrition, early development, behavioral and physical health.

Our teams serve children and families in all 100 counties and contribute significant financial benefits to the state. North Carolina allocates \$55 million in state funds to support DCFW programs, which leverage an additional \$5 billion in federal funding, the majority of which goes directly to children and families while stimulating the state's retail economy. Recently, in response to Hurricane Helene, DCFW provided Disaster SNAP and Food and Nutrition Services benefits to 380,000 individuals in western North Carolina, injecting \$85 million in federal funds into the local economy.

In just three years since its establishment, DCFW has already achieved notable early wins such as implementing the SUN Bucks program, which provided over 1 million students with \$120 each for summer food purchases, contributing \$129 million to the state's economy. Investments in early development, nutrition security, and physical and behavioral health are vital for enhancing the lives of children and families and the broader economy. At DCFW, we are guided by that mission: to ensure North Carolina's children are healthy and thriving in safe, stable and nurturing families, schools and communities.

