



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: February 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Information for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) State Agencies on Executive Order 14218

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Programs
State Directors
All WIC State Agencies

On February 19, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14218 to uphold the rule of law, defend against the waste of hard-earned taxpayer resources, and protect benefits for American citizens in need, including individuals with disabilities and veterans. Under Executive Order 14218, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is identifying federally funded programs that currently permit illegal aliens to obtain benefits, and, consistent with applicable law, taking appropriate actions.

Under the leadership of Secretary Brooke Rollins, USDA is also taking swift action to minimize instances of fraud, waste, and program abuse and clarify statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements.

In support of these actions, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is reminding WIC State agencies of their available options to implement Executive Order 14218.

Per WIC regulations at 7 CFR 246.7(c)(3), a State agency may limit WIC participation to United States citizens, nationals, and qualified aliens as defined in the Immigration and Nationality Laws (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.). State agencies that implement this option

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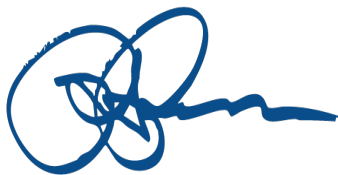
must inform FNS of their intentions and provide copies of the procedures they will establish regarding the limitation of WIC services to United States citizens, nationals, and qualified aliens.

For State agencies that wish to limit program services to United States citizens, nationals, and qualified aliens, USDA recommends each State agency consult with their state's legal counsel prior to implementation to ensure consistency with all applicable State, Tribal, or territorial laws. WIC State agencies which choose to pursue this option must inform FNS and submit an amendment to their State Plan to their FNS Regional Office for approval, as well as provide copies of associated policies and procedures.

USDA FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance to support State agencies in effectively and efficiently administering WIC. Interested State agencies are encouraged to contact your FNS Regional Office for questions about the required next steps.

Thank you for the critical work that you do to serve this Nation's most vulnerable while safeguarding program integrity and exercising sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Penn

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service

Deputy Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

United States Department of Agriculture

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