



Navajo WIC Services Restored as Federal Government Shutdown Continues



Navajo Nation Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program logo. Image courtesy of Navajo WIC.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services on the Navajo Nation were restored. As of Wednesday, October 8, vendors are again accepting benefits, and families are receiving direct resources and nutrition services.

As of October 3, the program had received \$110,726 in food funds and was awaiting administrative funds. However, on October 6, the Navajo Nation WIC program reported a temporary pause while internal budget actions were pending. As the program serves about 4,200 participants each month, many families can breathe a sigh of relief now that the program has been restored.

Federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) aims to keep these core nutrition programs operating during lapses in appropriations when funding is available. These programs also include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Nutrition programs, and WIC. More specifically, WIC has authority to recover and reallocate unused prior-year grant funds, and the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service retains excepted staff for policy, finance, and communications to support program operations.

The Navajo WIC program is continuing to coordinate with the Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget, local grocery partners and the federal government to secure remaining award documents and keep services stable until the government shutdown ends. Families should use their benefits as usual. For questions about clinic appointments, benefits, or authorized vendors, contact the Navajo WIC Nutrition Program at [\(928\) 283-3181](tel:9282833181) or at <https://wic.navajo-nsn.gov>.