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# THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WASHINGTON, DC

## Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial Census-derived Statistics

### Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC)

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objective: Provide supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health and social services to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children to age five who have been determined to be at nutritional risk.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [10.557](#)

Applicant eligibility: State health departments, which distribute funds to participating local public or nonprofit private health or welfare agencies that serve a population of low-income women, infants, and children at nutritional risk and are public or private nonprofits.

Type of assistance: Formula grants

Household eligibility: Pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age in need of the special supplemental foods supplied by the program and meet an income standard or receive or have certain family members that receive benefits under SNAP, Medicaid, or TANF Programs.

Allocation formulas: See [7 CFR 246.16](#) for set of formulas. A state's fair share target funding for food is its share of infants and children (ages 0-4) at or under 185 percent of poverty.

Primary Census-derived data sources: Poverty Guidelines (HHS) for household eligibility and Consumer Price Index (BLS) for annual inflation adjustment for monthly fruit and vegetable voucher. American Community Survey (Census) to determine each state's fair share target for foods funding. (Grants for supplemental food equal about 70 percent of WIC grants to states.)

Relation to accuracy of state Decennial Census count: Positive

A state Decennial Census undercount would increase the likelihood of lower estimates of infants and young children in lower-income households, which could result in a lower state fair share target funding for supplemental food.

**Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)  
Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015**

|                      |                 |                |               |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| United States        | \$6,347,680,031 |                |               |
| Alabama              | \$113,297,077   | Montana        | \$15,559,054  |
| Alaska               | \$23,514,610    | Nebraska       | \$32,309,177  |
| Arizona              | \$130,901,450   | Nevada         | \$52,186,048  |
| Arkansas             | \$69,202,150    | New Hampshire  | \$10,315,957  |
| California           | \$1,189,697,897 | New Jersey     | \$148,623,186 |
| Colorado             | \$72,447,786    | New Mexico     | \$38,654,036  |
| Connecticut          | \$45,702,910    | New York       | \$476,760,910 |
| Delaware             | \$16,054,261    | North Carolina | \$193,937,087 |
| District of Columbia | \$14,218,813    | North Dakota   | \$10,731,717  |
| Florida              | \$359,815,341   | Ohio           | \$164,339,180 |
| Georgia              | \$214,343,798   | Oklahoma       | \$64,451,102  |
| Hawaii               | \$33,673,260    | Oregon         | \$75,555,594  |
| Idaho                | \$30,153,331    | Pennsylvania   | \$202,222,692 |
| Illinois             | \$227,119,264   | Rhode Island   | \$18,051,021  |
| Indiana              | \$107,755,109   | South Carolina | \$91,093,030  |
| Iowa                 | \$44,518,770    | South Dakota   | \$17,872,939  |
| Kansas               | \$48,404,786    | Tennessee      | \$119,185,504 |
| Kentucky             | \$98,043,181    | Texas          | \$534,860,939 |
| Louisiana            | \$120,330,066   | Utah           | \$45,051,968  |
| Maine                | \$17,948,113    | Vermont        | \$13,615,878  |
| Maryland             | \$114,289,076   | Virginia       | \$99,370,732  |
| Massachusetts        | \$81,161,723    | Washington     | \$148,442,776 |
| Michigan             | \$191,463,631   | West Virginia  | \$36,472,001  |
| Minnesota            | \$93,911,121    | Wisconsin      | \$90,275,568  |
| Mississippi          | \$82,965,010    | Wyoming        | \$8,424,854   |
| Missouri             | \$98,384,547    |                |               |

Source: USASpending.gov

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, Research Professor, GWIPP, with data provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight

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