

Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts Study

Senate Resolution 283

Senate Committee / Sean Mack, Director Georgia WIC Program / Aug. 25, 2021

What Is WIC?

- A federally funded supplemental nutrition program which provides nutritious foods to pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age five (5).
- Provides additional services such as:
 - Nutritional assessments and education
 - Breastfeeding support
 - Referrals

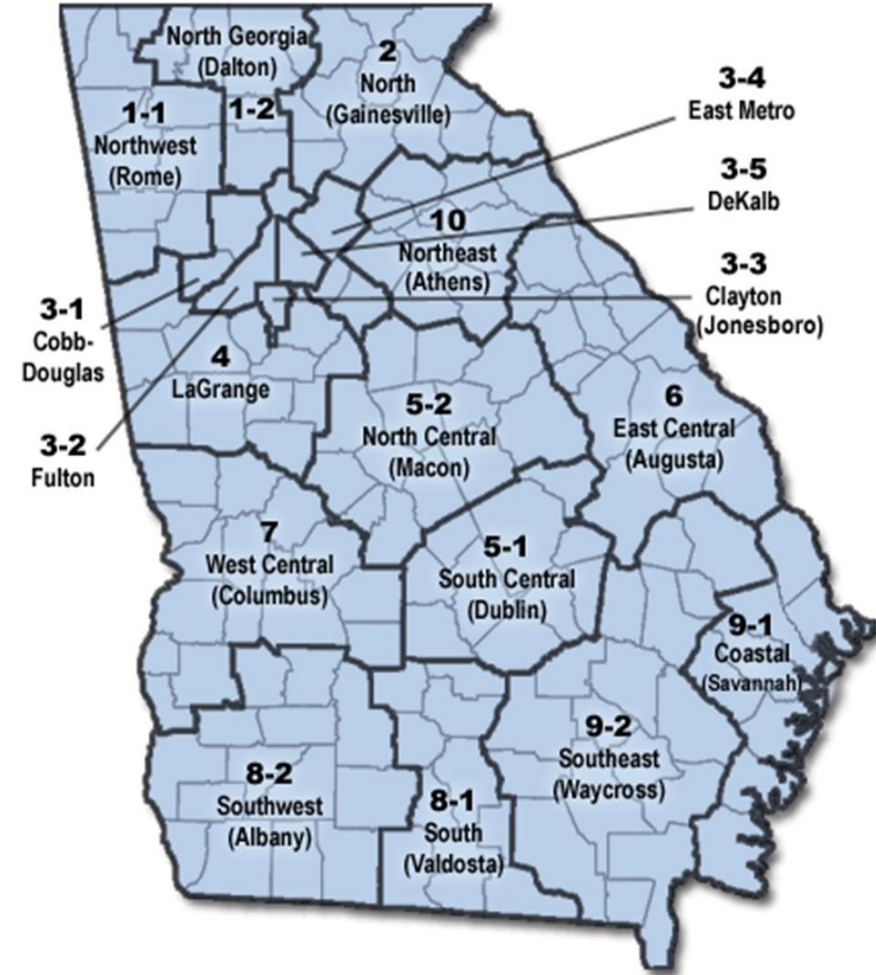
WIC Referrals

WIC supports referrals to other benefits and public health programs like:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Children 1st
- Immunization Program
- Head Start and many others

Georgia WIC

- 159 Counties
- 18 Health Districts & One (1) Contracted Agency (Grady Hospital)
- 202 WIC Clinics
- Serving ~185,000 Participants Monthly



WIC Services

1. Approved Foods List & Target Nutrients
 - Redeem Vouchers
2. Nutrition Assessment
3. Nutrition Education
4. Breastfeeding Support
5. Dietetic Internship

Access to Nutritious Foods

1. Over 1,300 WIC vendor locations statewide
 - Grocers, pharmacies and commissaries
2. Meet USDA approved foods requirement
3. Meet USDA competitive pricing requirement
4. Farmers Market Programs
 - FMNP
 - SMNP

Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act - 2010

Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act requires all WIC agencies to issue food benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) by October 2020.

- Georgia WIC will fully implement EBT by October 31, 2022.

COVID-19 Accommodations

1. Temporary increase in fruit and vegetable vouchers
2. Allowed substitutions for out of stock WIC approved foods

Summary

- Georgia WIC provides Nutrition Education and monthly food benefits to an estimated ~185,000 Women, Infants and Children
- Foods allowed on the WIC Approved Foods List are nutrient dense and are good sources of protein, iron, calcium, and vitamin A and C.
- The WIC Vendor Food Delivery system supports access to fruits and vegetables by establishing minimum inventory requirements for an estimated 1,200 grocers across Georgia.
- Georgia WIC will fully implement eWIC (Electronic WIC Benefits) by October 31, 2022.

Questions



Contact Information

Sean C. Mack

State WIC Director

Women, Infants and Children
(WIC)

Division of Health Promotion

Sean.Mack@dph.ga.gov

PHONE 404-657-3140



Thank You!

