

## Advocates Take Action as Infant Formula Shortages Magnify Disparities

The infant formula shortage is especially challenging for families with limited means. These shortages have magnified racial and economic disparities. Advocates are playing a pivotal role in helping parents in their communities by:

- connecting parents to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to support family food budgets and pay for infant formula;
  - view FRAC's new [video](#) and WIC referral [guide](#) for more information on how to connect families to WIC
- working with the State WIC agencies to [maximize use of available waivers](#) and ensure an expanded list of formula options is offered to parents;
- making sure parents know about expanded WIC formula options (e.g., [distributing the state WIC formulas substitutions list](#)); and
  - find information on your state's expanded WIC formula substitution options on your [state WIC website](#)
- providing parents access to reliable information on infant formula safety and resources, such as the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services [Information for Families During the Formula Shortage webpage](#).

It has been particularly important to make sure that each state's WIC program fully utilizes the waiver options that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has offered. USDA has issued a series of waivers focused on ensuring WIC participants can utilize their benefits during this shortage. These flexibilities empower states to allow a range of formula brands, sizes, and forms to be purchased with WIC benefits, rather than limiting WIC participants to just one type of formula. Most recently, [USDA announced](#) they would cover the costs of alternative formulas if necessary. Descriptions of the USDA WIC waivers and tracking of state's adoption can be found on the [USDA website](#).

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