

Companion Bills:

- **21st Century WIC Act (S. 3842)**, sponsored by Sen. Doc Marshall (R-KS) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- **More Options to Develop and Enhance Remote Nutrition (MODERN) WIC Act (H.R. 1464)**, sponsored by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)



Background

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a federal nutrition program, is widely recognized as an important safeguard for protecting and improving the health and nutrition of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding individuals, and infants and children up to 5 years of age from households with low incomes. WIC provides nutritious foods, education and counseling, and referrals to health care and social services.

Modernizing WIC

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, waivers were enacted that allowed WIC agencies to make advancements to modernize the delivery of WIC to increase its accessibility. While protecting program benefits integrity, these waivers allow states and local WIC agencies to permit participants to be certified/recertified by phone or video appointments, defer collection of health-screening data for 90 days, and receive WIC benefits remotely.
- Providing families with remote service options helps reduce long-standing barriers families face with in-person appointments, such as transportation challenges, securing appointments that align with their work schedules, and arranging child care. Remote service options also create efficiencies for WIC agencies and bring WIC services more in line with modern health services.
- Without congressional action, these essential modernizations could expire in September 2026.
Congress must pass the 21st Century WIC Act and the MODERN WIC Act to make these vital virtual service options permanent before waivers expire.

Why Are These Bills Important?

Both bills allow for the following:

- **Remote certification options:** Video and telephone certifications are permitted, removing logistical hurdles and streamlining the process for families to access essential nutrition benefits.
- **Guaranteed accessibility:** In line with the Americans with Disabilities Act, remote services are required to be fully accessible.
- **Prompt nutritional evaluations:** Nutritional risk assessments within 90 days through remote methods are required, ensuring timely support and intervention.
- **Immediate access to benefits:** Families can immediately qualify for WIC with subsequent nutritional assessments, based on income — speeding up the support process.

The 21st Century WIC Act and the MODERN WIC Act will make WIC a more efficient and accessible program and ensure that pregnant and postpartum individuals, infants, and children have access to the nutritional supports they need.

Take Action

Urge your Members of Congress to support the 21st Century WIC Act and the MODERN WIC Act by cosponsoring the companion bills today.