



Lori A. Weaver  
Interim Commissioner

Patricia M. Tilley  
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
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January 10, 2023

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, to accept and expend federal funds from the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services to improve the shopping experience and increase redemption rates of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) Services in the amount of \$366,727 effective upon approval by the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2023, and further authorize these funds to be allocated as follows. 100% Federal Funds.

**05-95-90-902010-XXXX0000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES, WIC SHOPPING ARPA**

**SFY 23**

Class-Account	Description	Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	Revised Adjusted Authorized
000-404852-16	Federal Funds	\$0	\$366,727	\$366,727
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$366,727</b>	<b>\$366,727</b>
020-500200	Current Expenses	0	\$100	\$100
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$0	\$404	\$404
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$0	\$366,223	\$366,223
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$366,727</b>	<b>\$366,727</b>

### EXPLANATION

This request is being made to accept federal funds available from US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services to supplement the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) Services. The overall function of the WIC Shopping Experience Improvement Grant is to develop a strategic plan and prioritized list of actions in order to increase WIC food package redemption rates across the state.

Redemptions rates for NH WIC authorized foods were below 80% for the majority of calendar year 2021. Redemption rates in the first quarter of 2022 of approved categories were all below 80%; of the 19 food categories, 11 were redeemed between 0%-50%, and only 8 food categories were redeemed between 51% - 80%. Reduced redemption of WIC authorized foods in a participant's food package results in less purchasing of healthy foods for a nutritious diet.

Feeding America reports that in 2020, 94,450 people were food insecure in New Hampshire, equating to a 7% food insecurity rate. While NH's food insecurity rate is lower than the national average, there are pockets within rural NH that have a food insecurity rate as high as 12.2% (Coos County), which is higher than the national average at 11.8%. Among households with children, New Hampshire's food insecurity rate rises to 9.5%, with Coos county as high as 18%. (Overall (all ages) Hunger & Poverty in the United States | Map the Meal Gap (feedingamerica.org))

NH proposes to learn more about participant shopping patterns, attitudes, experiences and barriers to fully redeeming their WIC food package through individual and group listening sessions. The contractor will use the information learned from WIC participants to develop a strategic plan and prioritized list of actions that the NH WIC Program shall implement in order to improve the WIC shopping experience and increase food package redemptions.

The funds are to be budgeted as follows:

- Class 020 These funds will be used to pay for current expense items such as office supplies, printing, and postage
- Class 041 These funds will be used to pay for audit fund set aside per state requirement.
- Class 102 These funds will be used to hire an outside contractor to develop a strategic plan and prioritized list of quality improvement actions based on key informant interviews and surveys, that the State of NH WIC Program will implement to improve the WIC shopping experience and increase food package redemptions.

In response to the anticipated two-part question, "Can these funds be used to offset General Funds?" and "What is the compelling reason for not offsetting General Funds?" the Division offers the following information: The funds are provided for a specified purpose by the CDC as defined in the Notice of Grant Award and cannot be used to offset general funds. These funds will not change the program eligibility levels. No new program will be established with the acceptance of these funds.

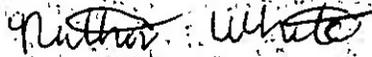
Area served: Statewide

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
January 10, 2023  
Page 3 of 3

Source of Funds: These funds are 100% Federal from the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (USDA, FNS).

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,

 For:

Lori A. Weaver  
Interim Commissioner

1. GRANTOR AGENCY: USDA - Food and Nutrition Service	2. APPROPRIATION: See below under Appropriation column
3. NH DEPT OF HHS NH DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS CONCORD NH 03301-6504 VENDOR NO. S3391701 000	4. TITLE OF GRANT: WIC American Rescue Plan (4yr)
5. APPORTIONMENT YEAR: 2022 GAD NUMBER: 4NH752052 AMENDMENT: 000	6. ESTIMATED ANNUAL GRANT AWARD:
7. GRANT PERIOD FROM: 09/26/2022 GRANT PERIOD TO: 09/30/2024	

APPROPRIATION	FAIN	ACCOUNT ID	PCA TITLE	CFDA NO.	PREVIOUS LEVEL	INCREASE/DECREASE	CURRENT LEVEL
121/43510	224NH052M2005	202221M200544	- WIC SHOPPING EXPERIENCE (O)	10.557	\$0.00	\$403,400.00	\$403,400.00
Total:					\$0.00	\$403,400.00	\$403,400.00

9. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS

Please note that the Financial Official (FO) assigned by the above grantee organization is responsible for maintaining valid banking information for this grant. This includes certifying that correct routing and transit numbers(ABA/RTN) and bank account numbers have been entered into the ASAP.gov payment system. The Food and Nutrition Service and the United States Treasury are not responsible for a misdirected payment in the event that the FO entered the incorrect ABA/RTN or bank account number information.

10. AUTHORIZATION ALLOWANCE HOLDER (DESIGNEE)  Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Office 10 Causeway Street, Room 501  Boston MA 02222 Telephone: 617-565-5300	SIGNATURE: - Electronically Signed by - JOHN PEDICINI	
	DATE: 09/26/2022	TELEPHONE NO: 617-565-6435