

WIC Services and Federal Budget Updates Frequently Asked Questions

We understand the uncertainty families and service providers may feel as the United States Congress works to approve a federal budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026).

WIC is committed to serving and keeping Arizona families informed. This is a resource for the latest information and guidance on WIC services during this time.

Background

On October 1, 2025, the United States federal government entered a shutdown. The federal government shutdown will end once the United States Congress passes a federal budget or a Continuing Resolution. WIC offices remain open at this time.

What you should know

- Arizona WIC continues to serve and enroll families.
- WIC offices will remain open.

What you can do

- Continue to use your WIC benefits. Use your WIC food benefits at <u>WIC-authorized</u> stores as usual. Your WIC food benefits can help you stretch your food dollars.
- Keep attending your WIC appointments. Families should continue attending their scheduled WIC appointments. WIC will continue to help you get healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, and referrals.
- Stay in contact with your WIC office. Your <u>local WIC</u> office can offer you support and guidance.

How to stay informed

- WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and <u>AZWIC.gov</u> for the latest information. Visit
 this website regularly for updates and announcements. WIC will keep participants informed of
 any changes to services.
- Check the EzWIC App. Download and check the EzWIC App for alerts, appointment reminders, and your food benefits. The EzWIC App is available for iPhone and Android phones.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Are WIC clinics open for business?

Answer: Yes, WIC is open! To see the latest information on clinic locations and hours of operation, please visit https://clinicsearch.azbnp.gov/ or check the EzWIC App.

Question: How long will participants be allowed to use their already-issued food benefits? **Answer:** Currently, WIC is open and all participants will continue to have benefits issued as WIC appointments are completed. Participants can redeem benefits during their regular benefit period. Funding for WIC is based on the federal government. If funding becomes unavailable, WIC benefits may be temporarily paused and eWIC cards deactivated. The Arizona WIC program will work to restore benefits to eligible WIC participants' eWIC cards as soon as funding becomes available. WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and AZWIC.gov for the latest information.

Question: When will participant eWIC cards be deactivated?

Answer: Currently, WIC is open and all participants can use their eWIC cards. There is no date set to deactivate eWIC cards at this time. The information for the available funding is rapidly changing. WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and <u>AZWIC.gov</u> for the latest information.

Question: How will participants be notified that their benefits will be deactivated? **Answer:** Currently, WIC is open and all participants can use their eWIC cards. The information for the available funding is rapidly changing. WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and AZWIC.gov for the latest information.

Question: If eWIC card benefits are deactivated, when can participants start using their eWIC cards again?

Answer: Currently, WIC is open and all participants can use their eWIC cards. Funding for WIC is based on the federal government. If funding becomes unavailable and WIC benefits are temporarily paused, the Arizona WIC program will work to restore benefits to eligible WIC participants' eWIC cards as soon as funding is available. WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and <u>AZWIC.gov</u> for the latest information.

Question: How will participants be notified when their card is active again?

Answer: WIC participants should check the EzWIC app and AZWIC.gov for the latest information.

Question: Will WIC-authorized grocery stores still accept eWIC cards?

Answer: Yes. WIC-authorized grocery stores can continue accepting eWIC card benefits as long as benefits are showing as available. WIC participants should check the EzWIC app for their latest benefit information before shopping.