



## **MSDH Statement on WIC and the Federal Government Shutdown**

*October 2, 2025*

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is actively monitoring the federal government shutdown that began at midnight on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. We want to reassure the public that we are taking proactive steps to support Mississippi families who rely on the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

In the absence of federal funding, MSDH is stepping in to ensure WIC operations continue. Current WIC participants will continue receiving their benefits without interruption.

### **Priority 1 Status and Certification During the Shutdown**

In accordance with contingency guidelines from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and high-risk infants have been designated as Priority 1. These individuals will continue to be processed and certified for WIC benefits during the shutdown.

Priority 1 applicants will still be evaluated and certified as usual.

All other applicants, those not meeting Priority 1 criteria, will be placed on a waitlist per FNS guidance. This approach ensures resources are directed to those at the highest nutritional risk, while still allowing others to apply and be considered.

### **What WIC Participants Need to Know**

- Current WIC participants should continue using their benefits as usual.
- Pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and high-risk infants may still apply and be certified.
- All other new applicants will be added to a waitlist and contacted once services resume in full.

Participants are encouraged to stay informed through the MSDH website ([msdh.ms.gov](https://msdh.ms.gov)), the WIC Shopper Mobile App, or by contacting the WIC Call Center at 1-800-338-6747.

### **The Importance of WIC**

WIC is a vital support system for thousands of Mississippi families. It provides nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, and critical resources for mothers and young children—helping to reduce infant mortality, improve childhood health, and support families during the most formative years of a child's life.

MSDH remains committed to minimizing the impact of the federal shutdown on the families we serve. We thank you for your trust and patience, and we will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves.