

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 1/25/06
Department Name: Public Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 2/7/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Anne Patterson, R.D., M.P.H., ext. 5279
Manager, Nutrition Services

SUBJECT: Women, Infants and Children Revenue Agreement

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Agreement #05-45796 with the California Department of Health Services WIC Supplemental Nutrition Branch to provide nutrition education and supplemental food coupons to lower income families for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$6,873,000.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

Goal II: A safe and healthy community in which to live, work and visit.

Goal V: A high quality of life for all residents.

Goal VII: A community that fosters the safety and well-being of families and children.

Executive Summary and Discussion: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally funded program that provides nutritious food (via prescriptive checks), nutrition assessment and education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care to high-risk, low-income women and children up to the age of five. Applicants must earn less than 185% of the federal poverty level in order to be income eligible for services.

The purpose of the WIC Program is to prevent poor birth outcomes, such as infant mortality and low birth weight, and to improve the nutrition and health of participants. Multiple scientific studies have shown WIC to be a cost-effective and positive public health intervention.

Participants receive nutrition and breastfeeding education and monthly food instruments (coupons) for specific foods purchased at local markets of their choice. Foods include milk, cheese, eggs, iron-rich cereals, beans, peanut butter, juice and infant formula. WIC services are offered countywide, through sites at Public Health Department offices and other community sites. WIC clinics are located in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara,

Solvang, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Cuyama, and at two sites in Santa Maria. The number of individuals who participate in the Santa Barbara County WIC Program is 15,975 per month.

Performance measures include:

- Ensure that 90% of 500 WIC participants surveyed will rate customer service “good” or better.
- At least 25% of 3,400 infants participating in the WIC program per month will be exclusively breastfed.
- The minimum caseload performance standard is 97% of the authorized caseload per month (i.e. 97% of 15,975 participants must be served to maintain funding level).

WIC is an optional federal program funded through the State Department of Health Services. This program has been operational in Santa Barbara County since 1975 and operates on the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 through September 30.

Mandates and Service Levels: This is not a mandated program. Receipt of these funds obligates the County to comply with requirements under Federal Title VII, Agriculture USDA, Chapter II, Part 246, Public Law 94-105. The Federal Regulations specify that local agencies have competent staff and the capability to perform WIC certification procedures, refer clients to health care services, provide nutrition education, implement a food delivery system, and maintain accurate programmatic and fiscal records.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Approval of this Contract does not increase General Fund contribution or the use of Public Health Department special revenue funds.

This is a 3-year revenue contract; the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005-06 amount is \$2,291,000; FFY 2006-07 is \$2,291,000; and the amount for FFY 2007-08 is \$2,291,000. These are maximum amounts payable for each year not the authorized amounts. The State WIC Program has historically received additional funding allocations throughout the year from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and a portion of the funds are distributed to local agencies for special projects. We request that you approve the maximum amounts in order to reduce the rework and administration involved in returning to your Board each time a funding enhancement for a special project is received.

To illustrate, we began FFY 2005-06 with an authorized amount of \$1,880,679; this amount has already been increased by \$101,500 as of October 18, 2005. The additional \$101,500 will be used for information technology costs, breastfeeding supplies, travel costs for participation on a State WIC nutrition education committee, and obesity prevention activities.

The General Fund contribution to this program is estimated to be approximately \$200,000 per fiscal year, which represents indirect costs over and above the restrictive amount allowed by the State pass-through agency for the WIC program.

The FY 2005-06 amount is part of the Public Health Department’s Adopted Budget and can be found in the County’s Operating Plan document in the Nutrition Services cost center on page D-194.

This agreement does not represent any need for a change in facilities.

Special Instructions: Please return six (6) signed originals of the Standard Agreement STD 213 face sheets to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 Attention: Margaret Granger (805) 681-5367.

Concurrence:
None required.