



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890*  
*Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay*

September 11, 2025

**Re: Collaborative– Funding for Tribal/Urban Indian WIC Programs Listening Sessions**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration to better support the funding needs of Tribal and Urban Indian organizations in delivering the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Programs in your communities.

During upcoming listening sessions, we will share recent updates on Washington WIC's federal fiscal year 2026 funding levels and discuss future potential impacts for WIC agencies. Please see the one pager below for more information.

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Meeting Information
Listening Session 1	Monday, September 22, 2025, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Zoom ID: <a href="#">884 2095 5614</a> Passcode: 377175
Listening Session 2	Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:00 am	Zoom ID: <a href="#">849 8084 7333</a> Passcode: 722129

For additional information, please Brittany Tybo, Washington WIC Director, at [brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov](mailto:brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov) or 360-763-6842, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES  
Assistant Secretary, Prevention and Community Health Division

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH  
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety and Health, WA-DOH

# WA-DOH Collaboration on WIC Funding for Tribal/Urban Indian WIC Programs

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- WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
  - WA WIC has interagency agreements with 14 Tribes, one Tribal organization (SPIPA) and one Urban Indian Health organization (SIHB).
- As we prepare for FFY 2026, beginning October 1, 2025, WIC faces significant budgetary challenges. As a result, we did make the difficult decision to reduce the state WIC team by 24 FTE, about a quarter of the state staff. Our Tribal liaison Sheryl Pickering's role was not impacted.
- The WIC program is in a time of rapid budget changes, and we thank all the Tribes and tribal organizations that have WIC programs for working with us over the last several weeks as we have figured out how to solve a short-term problem, and work towards long-term solutions together. The situation and information were evolving quickly, so we know there were impacts as we reached out, and we apologize for any confusion and know that any budget emergencies cause stress and concern for important services.
- We want to work with you to better support the Tribal/Urban Indian WIC Programs' funding needs for providing WIC services in your communities.
- Listening session details are provided in this DTLL.
- Contact: Brittany Tybo, WA WIC Director, [brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov](mailto:brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov)