

Who is conducting this study?

Under contract with USDA/FNS, Altarum Institute is the coordinating contractor leading the study team, which includes RTI International.



Where do I get more information?

Email questions to NSAcoststudy@altarum.org



When is the study being conducted?

Late 2013 to Early 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provide WIC State Agencies an overview of data collection and timeline
Spring 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Select 14 WIC State Agencies for case studies ▶ Select 2-3 local agencies in each of the 14 States for case studies ▶ Select 9 SNAP/TANF state organizations for case studies
Spring 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Send information to all State and local agencies about the Web survey that will be used for data collection ▶ For the agencies selected for case studies, send information about the case study interviews
Spring 2014 to Summer 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Conduct Web survey of all state and local agencies ▶ Conduct interviews for case studies in selected State and local agencies
Fall 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Submit final report to FNS

WIC plays a critical role in the nutrition and health of over 9 million women, infants and young children.



To better understand the important role of Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) costs in providing program services, USDA is conducting a national

WIC NSA Cost Study

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is sponsoring this study to gather information about how NSA funds are used by State and local WIC agencies and to evaluate the impact of recent program changes on NSA costs

WIC participants receive nutrition education and food benefits, a combination of WIC services that are provided through different funding streams. WIC Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) funds are used to finance services in four cost categories: 1) program management, 2) client services, 3) nutrition education; and 4) breastfeeding promotion.

The last WIC NSA study of this nature was conducted was in 2000. Since then, numerous WIC program changes have occurred. FNS is interested in understanding the various ways in which NSA grant funds are utilized, the range of operations covered by NSA funds, and the impact of program changes on NSA grant funds.

What is the purpose of the study?



- To understand how State Agencies utilize NSA funds to provide services, how funds are provided to local agencies, and the extent to which expenses are shared with other programs.
- To determine the impact of increased use of technology, particularly MIS and EBT, on NSA costs.
- To identify the effect of economies of scale between larger and smaller WIC programs.
- To compare administrative costs in WIC and other federal programs, such as SNAP and TANF.

All State and local WIC agencies throughout the nation and US territories are being asked to participate in this study.

How will the study be conducted?

The study team will collect data on NSA costs from a variety of sources, including:

- FNS 798 and 798-A for FFY 2013
- Supporting documentation from local agencies that was used to complete the FNS 798-A for FFY 2013
- A Web survey of all WIC State Agencies and local agencies;
- Interviews from case studies in 14 State Agencies and local agencies within those States; and
- Interviews from case studies in 9 SNAP and TANF organizations.

Consulting with the Advisory Panel

An Advisory Panel of 10 WIC program and research experts has been convened to support the study. The Advisory Panel will provide feedback on the data collection instruments, encourage full participation of their colleagues at the State and local level, and review the final report.



According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-XXXX. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.