

Extending WIC for New Moms Act

Representative Lucy McBath

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More Resources:



BACKGROUND

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a critical federal program to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum people, as well as infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.¹

Data on WIC's effectiveness consistently shows the strong benefits of the program for moms and babies. Participation in WIC during pregnancy is associated with reduced risk of pregnancy complications like preeclampsia, gestational hypertension and pre-term deliveries as well as healthier births.² WIC participation is also associated with reductions in infant mortality and improved nutrition and health outcomes for infants and children.³

By extending eligibility for WIC in the postpartum and breastfeeding periods, the Extending WIC for New Moms Act will make sure the nutritional needs of moms and babies are met, improving maternal and child health outcomes and advancing birth equity across the United States.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Extending WIC for New Moms Act** will:

1. **Extend WIC eligibility in the postpartum period** from 6 months to 24 months.
2. **Extend WIC eligibility in the breastfeeding period** from 12 months to 24 months.

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