

## TALWD

# NEWSLETTER

<https://www.talwd.org/>



## TALWD Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors shall be to act as a vehicle for the expression of ideas on planning, policy, coordination, implementation, and administration of the WIC program on the Local, State, and Federal level; to foster communication between local WIC programs and the Texas Department of Health with the goal of positively affecting the administration of WIC within the state; to bring together administrators of Local Agency WIC Programs, in order to provide peer support, orientation and/or assistance; and to promote professional and public awareness of new and existing Federal and State legislation.

From the Editor: Please contact us, if you have suggestions or story ideas. Hope you enjoy Volume 5, Issue 33

Meliza Garcia, Newsletter Reporter

Email: [mgarcia@sanpatriciountytexas.gov](mailto:mgarcia@sanpatriciountytexas.gov)

## 2026 TALWD BOARD MEMEBERS:

President – Jenifer Gregory  
 Secretary – Alissa Orozco  
 Treasurer – Christina (Brandy) Patteson  
 1st VP of Organization & Development – Becca Reed  
 2nd VP of Operations – Jennifer Ranspot  
 Past NWA Representative – Adela Garcia  
 NWA Rep-Elect – Tecora Smith  
 Newsletter Reporter – Meliza Garcia  
 Historian – Clarissa Ramirez  
 Past Presidents Council Representative – Benny Jasso  
 Past Treasurer – Sandie Lopez

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Business & Finance Chair – Margaret Payton  
 Legislative Chair – Michelle Cummings  
 Marketing Chair – Jannette Sepeda  
 Membership Chair – Amanda Brogdon  
 Nutrition Education Chair – Kathryn Almaraz  
 Breastfeeding Chair – Zahra Koopaei  
 Client Services Chair – Jammie Wright  
 Local Agency Administration Chair – Kelly Bocanegra  
 Technology Task Force – Katherine Galvan  
 Funding Formula Task Force – Margaret Payton  
 Re-Opening Task Force – Amanda Brogdon  
 QA Task Force – Eileen Mendoza

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES & ALTERNATIVES:

Central Representative – Alissa Orozco  
 \*Alternate – Nicole Koenen  
 Panhandle Representative – Eileen Mendoza  
 \*Alternate – Margaret Payton  
 Western Representative – Adriana Archer  
 Alternate – Vacant  
 Northern Representative – Janice Piper  
 \*Alternate – Kathy Oliver  
 Gulf Coast Representative – Becca Reed  
 \*Alternate – Zahra Koopaei  
 Southwestern Representative – Julie Granado  
 \*Alternate – Mandi Wilcox  
 Eastern Representative – Scherry Barnes  
 \*Alternate – Kristi Kilgore  
 Southern Representative – Kathrine Galvan  
 \*Alternate – Yvette Viciniaz





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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

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As a member of TALWD, you have the opportunity to participate in a number of committees (which gives you the chance to provide valuable input first hand) and events. You also have the opportunity to network with fellow directors and learn more about WIC throughout Texas. Your voice as a TALWD member is needed and valued!

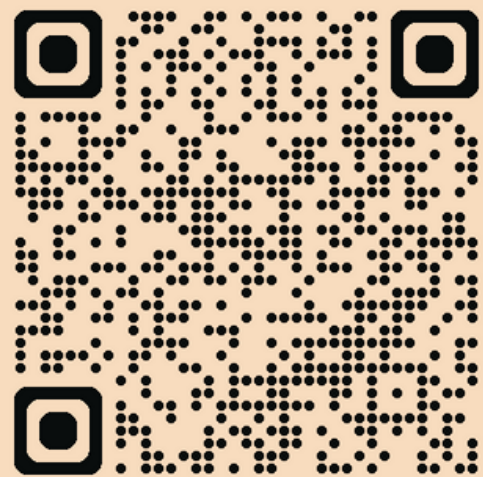
Joining is easy! Simply go to your account and select "Membership/Renewal" and place in your cart. You can complete payment with a credit card online or complete the form below for payment by check.

Watch our Membership Video here!

[https://www.talwd.org/images/TALWD\\_membership\\_640x360.mp4](https://www.talwd.org/images/TALWD_membership_640x360.mp4)

Membership Renewal Form

<https://www.talwd.org/account?page=join>



**Your Voice as a  
TALWD Member is  
Needed and Valued**

**Texas Association of Local WIC Directors**



# Texas WIC Memos

Number	Title/Notes	Date
25-082	Quality Management Branch Review of Local Agency Subcontractor Monitoring Activities	12/12/2025
25-085	WIC Peer Counselor Volunteer Recruitment Memo	12/5/2025
25-084	eWIC Print Materials: Phase 1	12/3/2025
25-083	Prenatal Breastfeeding Education Bag Ordering Opportunity	12/3/2025
25-081	Training Schedule for November and December Now Available	11/18/2025
25-080	2026 State Agency Holiday Schedule ClosuresRevised 12/12/2025	11/14/2025
25-079	2026 Nutrition & Breastfeeding Conference Options	11/14/2025
25-078	Therapeutic Formula Discontinuation	10/29/2025
25-066	Register Now for the 2025 Partners in Fatherhood Event	10/21/2025
25-077	New Nutrition Education Print Materials	10/15/2025
25-075	Revision of WIC Policy CS:08.0 Adjunctive Income Eligibility	10/15/2025
25-076	Revision of WIC Policy GA:24.0 Child Abuse Reporting	10/15/2025
25-074	New Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Learning Series	10/9/2025
25-073	Tracking Born to WIC (BTW) Ever Breastfed Rates	10/6/2025
25-072	Revision of WIC Policy CS:24.0 Certification Periods	10/6/2025
25-071	Basic Infant Formula Module in LMS	10/2/2025
25-070	Updated Client Resource: Real Tips for Real Life Newsletters	10/1/2025
25-069	Nutrition Counseling Resources Posted to Egnyte	9/30/2025
25-068	Updated \$10,000 Threshold for Purchases in Policies under AC:07.0, AC:15.0 and AC:18.0	9/29/2025
25-067	Overtime and Other Special Pay	9/26/2025



## **Texas WIC Express Archive**



## **Upcoming Breastfeeding Courses – 2025/2026**

### **Breastfeeding Course Information**

The Health and Human Services, Texas WIC Program collaborates with the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors (TALWD) to provide current, evidence-based lactation education to ensure consistent, accurate information across all levels of health care professionals. Courses are offered virtually, in-person, and on-demand. If your facility would be interested in hosting an in-person Lactation Principles class, please use the Contact Us feature.

Online Breastfeeding Management and Breastfeeding the Compromised Infant are offered online to take at your own pace. No pre-requisites and no cost.

Texas WIC employees must take the classes on the Texas WIC Training site.

Non-WIC employees must take the classes on our site for WIC Partners.

If you have questions or problems, email [WICPartnerTraining@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:WICPartnerTraining@hhs.texas.gov)

### **Live Classes**

Classes are offered in-person and/or virtually. Virtual classes are free to attend and require attending orientation at least once on the learning platform, Livestream, lasting about 20 minutes. Virtual classes are spread out over the course of several days. Registration is required in advance and closes a week prior to the class.

### **Who Should Attend**

Live courses are designed for local agency WIC staff and health professionals who counsel breastfeeding mothers and would like to improve problem-solving and counseling skills. The classes emphasize critical thinking. You will work through case studies and activities as a group. Be prepared to join the discussions and share your ideas with others in class. There will be no written handout or syllabus so you can focus on discussions.

Active engagement is assessed in this virtual platform using participation via chat and polls. Evidence of consistent active engagement throughout the entire session day is required.



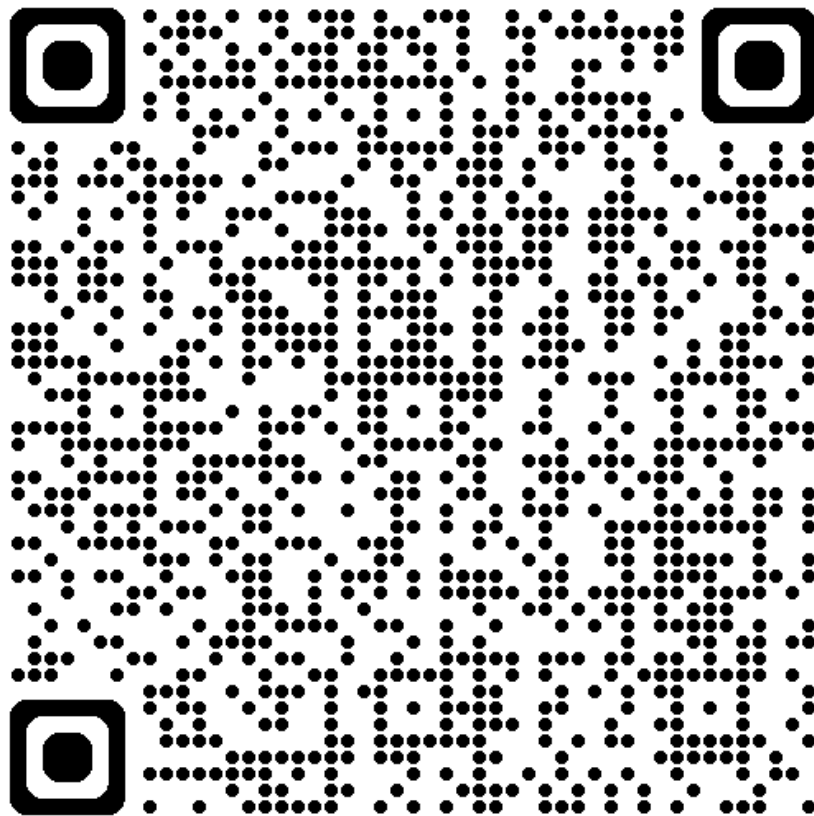
# Breastfeeding Course

- Lactation Principles (virtual)
  - Jan 13, 2026, 9:00 AM – Jan 15, Noon
  - 60/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. Who Should Attend: This is a basic level course that focuses on the counseling skills needed to provide optimal breastfeeding support to clients. The course will enable attendees to strengthen their problem so...
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- Lactation Principles (virtual)
  - Feb 17, 2026, 9:00 AM – Feb 19, Noon
  - 41/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. Who Should Attend: This is a basic level course that focuses on the counseling skills needed to provide optimal breastfeeding support to clients. The course will enable attendees to strengthen their problem so...
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- Advanced Lactation Management: Session 1
  - Mar 9, 2026, 1:00 PM – Mar 9, 5:00 PM
  - 34/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm, and has a total of 4 sessions. A set of all of the sessions is offered quarterly with multiple topics covered in each. You may attend the sessi...
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- Advanced Lactation Management: Session 2
  - Mar 11, 2026, 1:00 PM – Mar 11, 5:00 PM
  - 33/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm, and has a total of 4 sessions. A set of all of the sessions is offered quarterly with multiple topics covered in each. You may attend the sessi...
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- Advanced Lactation Management: Session 3
  - Mar 16, 2026, 1:00 PM – Mar 16, 5:00 PM
  - 35/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm, and has a total of 4 sessions. A set of all the sessions is offered quarterly with multiple topics covered in each. You may attend the sessions...
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- Advanced Lactation Management: Session 4
  - Mar 18, 2026, 1:00 PM – Mar 18, 6:00 PM
  - 37/60 Tickets
  - Please read the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm, and has a total of 4 sessions. A set of all of the sessions is offered quarterly with multiple topics covered in each. You may attend the sessi...

**TXIN  
and  
myWIC Live Trainings**

**Check out the Live Training Schedule for full details on  
upcoming training opportunities.**

**12/2025 - 01/2026**







[Egnyte Directory on Egnyte](#)

Folder \_Egnyte Directory shared using Egnyte  
txwic.egnytegov.com



**Texas WIC Express Archive on Egnyte**

Folder Texas WIC Express Archive shared using Egnyte





**Welcome to the NWA online community**  
**<https://community.nwica.org/community>**

### **Not Receiving NWA Emails? Please Resubscribe!**

Due to technical errors with our previous email system vendor, some members were mistakenly unsubscribed from NWA communications. We are now switching to a new email system. We value staying connected with you and want to make sure you continue receiving updates on WIC advocacy, resources, and events.

If you are not receiving NWA's email updates (ie. Monday Update, and other newsletters) and would like to, please confirm by clicking below:

**Yes, keep me subscribed**

**Thank you for your understanding and for being part of the National WIC Association community.**

**Warm regards,  
The NWA Team**

### **How do you use the WIC Hub?**

The WIC Hub is a digital resource hub that brings together training, tools, and materials to make staff more efficient and effective in their day-to-day work.

The WIC community can access best practices, toolkits, reports, and fact sheets, as well as connect with peers across the country – all in one centralized location! Time saved can be used towards building new skills and ensuring families get the best support possible.

**Explore the newest resources on the WIC Hub:**

- **New Resource Collection: WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**
- **WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study-2 Year 9 Final Report**
- **State Landscape: Detailing Eligibility & Enrollment Practices in Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and WIC**

**Explore the WIC Hub today!** Share your successful agency reports, resources, and strategies, and discover tools to strengthen the WIC community. Also, share how you best utilize the WIC Hub in the comments!



# NWA



## Blog

The National WIC Association (NWA) is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

 National WIC Association

*December 19, 2025*

### Meet the Board: Georgia Machell, President & CEO of the National WIC Association

The final installment of NWA's *Meet the Board* series spotlights Georgia Machell, President & CEO of the National WIC Association. Georgia reflects on her journey with WIC, her vision for strengthening member engagement and leadership, and her priorities for advancing the program's future. This closing feature offers a meaningful look at the leadership guiding NWA forward as it continues its mission to support and strengthen WIC nationwide.

*December 15, 2025*

### 40 Years Strong: Year-End Highlights from NWA & What Comes Next

As NWA closes out its 40th anniversary year, we reflect on a year of impact driven by advocacy, connection, and collective action. From securing full federal funding and responding during the 2025 federal shutdown to expanding language access and elevating community voices, NWA's work strengthened WIC nationwide. Explore year-end highlights, top blog posts, and ways to stay engaged as we look ahead.

*November 21, 2025*

### Celebrating 40 Years of Impact and Building What Comes Next

As NWA closes its 40th anniversary year, we're celebrating the WIC community that has powered four decades of advocacy, education, and support. This year underscored WIC's vital role, especially during moments of uncertainty, and highlighted the dedication of staff, families, partners, and advocates who keep the program strong. As we look ahead, NWA invites the community to continue shaping WIC's future: make a year-end gift to strengthen advocacy, share gratitude on the WIC Appreciation Wall, and shop the NWA Store to support our mission. WIC's strength has always come from its community. With your continued generosity, we can build an even stronger foundation for the next 40 years.

*October 27, 2025*

### 40 Years of Supporting WIC Staff: 5 Reasons to Use the WIC Hub!

For 40 years, the National WIC Association (NWA) has been the nonprofit voice for WIC agencies nationwide, advocating for families and empowering staff through training, innovation, and leadership support. Central to this is the WIC Hub, a digital platform designed to strengthen the WIC workforce. The WIC Hub provides a one-stop resource for toolkits, reports, fact sheets, webinars, and case studies—all organized by category, state, or resource type. Staff, researchers, and advocates can stay informed,



**National WIC  
Association**

**Press Room**

The National WIC Association (NWA) is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

 National WIC Association

December 9, 2025

National WIC Association Strongly Opposes Proposed Changes to Public Charge

*November 18, 2025*

New Proposed Rule on Public Charge Will Not Impact Access to WIC

*November 12, 2025*

Shutdown Deal Fully Funds WIC, Protects Fruit and Vegetable Benefits for Families

*November 10, 2025*

National WIC Association Applauds Full Funding for WIC in Bipartisan Funding Agreement, Urges Swift Passage to Ensure Stability for Families and WIC Workforce

*November 3, 2025*

WIC to Receive \$450 Million as Shutdown Drags on, NWA Warns Temporary Funding Is Not a Solution





February 24-26, 2026

#### 2026 NWA National Policy Conference

Join us for the 2026 National Policy Conference, Strength in Community, Power in Policy on Tuesday, February 24, through Thursday, February 26, 2026.

This year's virtual conference comes on the heels of a historic year for WIC - the program weathered the longest federal government shutdown in history without large-scale disruptions to benefits or clinic services, and now has full funding for FY 2026. Now, our policy focus turns to FY 2027 funding and critical modernization needs - including securing permanent virtual services in WIC by passing the MODERN WIC Act and publishing the final rule on online shopping.

The conference will start on Tuesday, February 24, and will end with the Annual Capitol Hill Education Day on Thursday, February 26. Note: The conference is closed to press.



May 27-30, 2026

#### 2026 NWA Annual Education and Training Conference

We are excited to announce that the 2026 NWA Annual Education and Training Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas from Wednesday, May 27 through Saturday, May 30, 2026!

The conference will be held in downtown Dallas, with the venue to be announced when registration opens in December 2025.

The room rate will be at the federal per diem.

The Call for Abstracts is NOW OPEN!

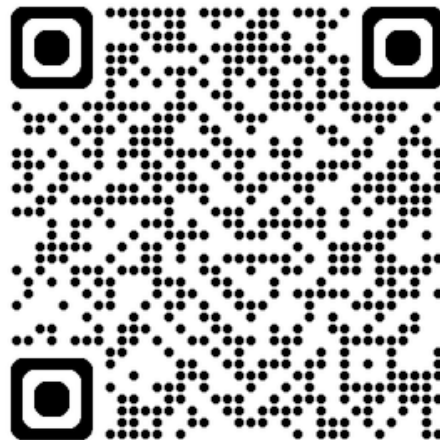




# SHOP WIC. SHARE WIC. CELEBRATE WIC.

Welcome to the National WIC Association's online store. Bringing WIC pride to your office, home, and community outreach efforts.

[VIEW PRODUCTS](#)



## ESSENTIAL WIC RESOURCES

Explore our curated products for WIC families: WIC Wall Calendar, Pocket Calendar, 360 Training Cup, Metal Water Bottle, T-Shirt, Polos, Stickers.



### Recipe Calendars With Videos

WIC Wall Calendar, WIC Pocket Calendar—beautiful, practical tools to plan and inspire nutritious meals for WIC families.



### Cups / Bottles

360 Training Cup, Metal Water Bottle—durable, family-friendly hydration solutions designed for infants and adults alike.



### Apparel

T-Shirt, Polos, and Cardigans —comfortable, stylish clothing to proudly support and promote WIC's mission in your community.



### Other Printed Products

A fun and simple way to spread awareness and show WIC pride.



# Center for Innovative Practices in WIC (CIP-WIC)



Who is CIP-WIC?

The Center for Innovative Practices in WIC (CIP-WIC) is a team of subject matter experts in nutrition, lactation, research, policy, and best practices within the WIC program. We help WIC professionals access tools and resources that promote modernization and advance racial and health equity across service delivery.

[Priorities](#) | [Portfolios of Work](#) | [Committees, Work Groups, and Coalitions](#) | [How to Get Involved](#)



# Let Your Dreams Shine!

## LOCAL AGENCY FEATURE

LA26 conducted their annual Civil Rights & Customer Service in-service on December 1, 2025, featuring an energetic and charismatic guest speaker Mr. Paul J. Long who presented “The Principles of an Unbeatable Culture” and “Connecting with Oneself.”

Connecting to life through F.U.N.

The staff are still talking about him and his presentation.

[Watch Paul’s Brand New 2025 Speaker Reel!](#)





**“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”  
Desmond Tutu**

Attending the TALWD 37th Annual Conference & Business Meeting in South Padre Island offered a unique blend of professional development and coastal charm, making it an unforgettable experience. Nestled along the Gulf Coast, this picturesque location provided us a refreshing backdrop for networking and learning, with the serene sounds of the ocean and stunning sunrises set the stage for engaging discussions and innovative ideas. Beyond the conference sessions, attendees enjoyed the island's natural beauty through activities such as beach walks, dolphin watching, and attending a luau. The relaxed atmosphere fostered meaningful connections among us, enhancing both personal and professional growth. Whether it's the insightful presentations or the breathtaking views, South Padre Island left a lasting impression, inspiring creativity and collaboration long after the event concluded.

Southern Region hopes you enjoyed it just as much!



Here are a few memories of the amazing event:

