

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 32

Meliza Garcia, Newsletter Reporter

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

## 2025 TALWD BOARD MEMEBERS:

President – Benny Jasso  
 Secretary – Jennifer Gregory  
 Treasurer – Jessica Neal  
 1st VP of Organization & Development  
 – Brandy Patteson  
 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 – Eileen Mendoza  
 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 – Brandy  
 Patteson  
 Funding Formula Task Force – Margaret  
 Payton  
 Re-Opening Task Force – Amanda  
 Brogden  
 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





## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

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!

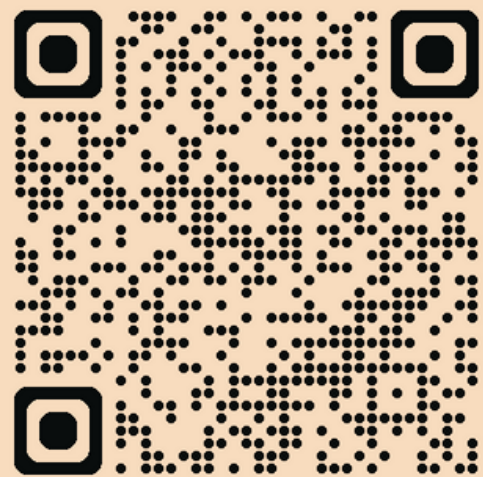
Joining is easy! Simply go to your account and select "Membership/Renewal" and place in your cart. You can complete payment with a credit card online or complete the form below for payment by check.

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**





Number	Title/Notes	Date
<a href="#">25-046</a>	Revisions to the Health History Questionnaires	11 jun 2025
<a href="#">25-045</a>	WIC Materials With 2025 Income Guidelines Are Now Available to Order	9 sept 2025
<a href="#">25-044</a>	Deletion of Policies AUT:06.0 – Surge Protector Equipment and AUT:07.0 –	6 jun 2025
<a href="#">25-043</a>	Medela Breast Pump Returns for Repair or Replacements	21 may 2025
<a href="#">25-042</a>	Breast Pump Ordering Opportunity	13 may 2025
<a href="#">25-041</a>	Disability Determination Letters	7 may 2025
<a href="#">25-040</a>	Prenatal Education Bag Ordering Opportunity	6 may 2025
<a href="#">25-039</a>	National Breastfeeding Month Memo	5 may 2025
<a href="#">25-038</a>	FY2026 PADC	29 april 2025
<a href="#">25-037</a>	NEBF Plan	28 april 2025
<a href="#">25-035</a>	Virtual WIC Directors' Orientation	25 april 2025
<a href="#">25-036</a>	New trainings, updated schedule available for May and June	25 april 2025
<a href="#">25-034</a>	Revisions to Texas WIC Policy CS:12.0	24 april 2025
<a href="#">25-033</a>	2025 Texas WIC Feeding Survey	11 april 2025
<a href="#">25-031</a>	Update to Working Hours on Good Friday April 18	4 april 2025
<a href="#">25-029</a>	Therapeutic Formula Updates	4 april 2025
<a href="#">25-032</a>	Procedures for Disaster Victims – Hurricane Season	4 april 2025
<a href="#">25-030</a>	New Outreach Brochure Available for Download in Vietnamese and Pashto	1 april 2025
<a href="#">25-028</a>	2025 Disposal of Records	26 march 2025
<a href="#">25-025</a>	Nutrition Counseling Training Workshops	25 march 2025

## Upcoming Breastfeeding Courses – 2025

Contact:

Missy Hammer

(512) 413-5709

[Missy.Hammer@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Missy.Hammer@hhs.texas.gov)

### 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 Courses

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 1

Jul 7, 2025, 1:00 PM – Jul 7, 5:00 PM

36/60 Tickets

3/12/2025: All sessions for this month have been moved up a week. This class was changed from July 14 to July 7. Make sure you to update any calendar reminders. Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to regi...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 2

Jul 9, 2025, 1:00 PM – Jul 9, 5:00 PM

35/60 Tickets

3/12/2025: All sessions for this month have been moved up a week. This class was changed from July 16 to July 9. Make sure you to update any calendar reminders. Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to regi...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 3

Jul 14, 2025, 1:00 PM – Jul 14, 5:00 PM

38/60 Tickets

3/12/2025: All sessions for this month have been moved up a week. This class was changed from July 21 to July 14. Make sure you to update any calendar reminders. Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to regi...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 4

Jul 16, 2025, 1:00 PM – Jul 16, 5:00 PM

42/60 Tickets

3/12/2025: All sessions for this month have been moved up a week. This class was changed from July 23 to July 16. Make sure you to update any calendar reminders. Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to regi...

### Lactation Principles (in-person)

Aug 5, 2025, 8:00 AM – Aug 5, 5:00 PM

2/60 Tickets

Please read the Information Page; specifically the "Things to consider prior to registering" list. 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 ena...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 1

Sep 8, 2025, 1:00 PM – Sep 8, 5:00 PM

4/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 2

Sep 10, 2025, 1:00 PM – Sep 10, 5:00 PM

4/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qu...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 3

Sep 15, 2025, 1:00 PM – Sep 15, 5:00 PM

4/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 4

Sep 17, 2025, 1:00 PM – Sep 17, 5:00 PM

4/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

### Lactation Principles (in-person)

Oct 7, 2025, 8:00 AM – Oct 7, 5:00 PM

2/40 Tickets

Please read the Information Page; specifically the "Things to consider prior to registering" list. 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 ena...

#### Lactation Principles (virtual)

Nov 17, 2025, 9:00 AM – Nov 20, Noon

36/60 Tickets

**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 solving and critical thinking skills through case studies...

#### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 1

Dec 8, 2025, 1:00 PM – Dec 8, 5:00 PM

1/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

#### Advanced Lactation Management: Session 2

Dec 10, 2025, 1:00 PM – Dec 10, 5:00 PM

2/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

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Dec 15, 2025, 1:00 PM – Dec 15, 5:00 PM

1/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

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Dec 17, 2025, 1:00 PM – Dec 17, 5:00 PM

1/60 Tickets

Please read the "Things to consider prior to registering" list on the Information Page prior to registering. This class is held virtually on the learning platform, Livestorm. Originally, this was a 2-day, in-person class but is now split into 4 sessions offered qua...

## TXIN and myWIC Live Trainings

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





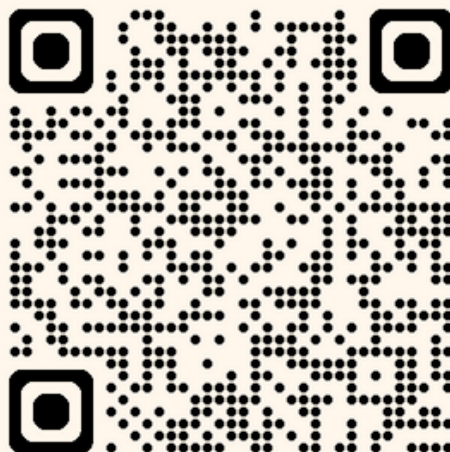
[Egnyte Directory on Egnyte](#)

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txwic.egnytegov.com



## Texas WIC Express Archive on Egnyte

Folder Texas WIC Express Archive shared using Egnyte





**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

**Media Contact**

Whitney Carlson, [wcarlson@nwica.org](mailto:wcarlson@nwica.org)

**Press Releases**

June 4, 2025

**National WIC Association Urges Congress to Reject WIC Cuts Proposed by House Committee**

The House Appropriations committee released a bill that would cut funding for WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

June 3, 2025

**Food and Nutrition Organizations Speak Out Against Trump's Proposed Cuts to WIC's Fruit and Vegetable Benefit**

Many food and nutrition organizations agree that the President's proposed cuts to WIC would harm families. Read their statements.

May 30, 2025

**National WIC Association Condemns Trump's Proposed Cuts to WIC's Fruit and Vegetable Benefits**

"Reducing the CVB significantly hinders access to fruits and vegetables for low-income mothers and young children at nutritional risk, the very populations this program was designed to protect. At a time when food insecurity remains a serious challenge and maternal and child health needs are urgent, these cuts would move us in the wrong direction."

May 22, 2025

**U.S. House Passes Budget Reconciliation Bill with Drastic Cuts to Health and Nutrition Programs for Families**

NWA is deeply concerned by the passage of a budget reconciliation bill that includes significant cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.

March 14, 2025

**Congress Passes FY 2025 Funding Bill, Ensuring Full WIC Funding and Averting Government Shutdown**



# NWA Blog

April 14, 2025

## **Strengthening WIC's Workforce and Championing DEI: NWA's Commitment to Advancing Health Equity**

In celebration of its 40th anniversary and Black Maternal Health Week, the National WIC Association (NWA) reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the WIC workforce and advancing equity. This blog highlights NWA's recent efforts to support professional development for BIPOC WIC staff, elevate culturally responsive care, and champion policies that promote health equity—especially for Black mothers and families.

June 20, 2025

## **Advocates and Lawmakers Urge Congress to Pass Modern WIC Act & Defend Nutrition Benefits**

On June 17, the National WIC Association (NWA), Bread for the World, and the Alliance to End Hunger hosted a Congressional briefing where U.S. Representatives and advocates pushed for passage of the MODERN WIC Act, support for WIC's Cash Value Benefit (CVB), and full funding for the program.

June 18, 2025

## **Dads and WIC -- Strengthening Families Together**

In a new guest blog, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Administrator James C. Miller shares how WIC supports whole-family health and why dads play an important role. Drawing on his experience as a father, he highlights simple ways dads can support their partners, connect with their children, and make the most of WIC. When fathers are involved, families grow stronger.

June 16, 2025

## **Health Equity in Action: NWA's Guiding Principles at 40 Years**

As the National WIC Association marks four decades of advocacy, this blog reflects on how our Guiding Principles continue to shape a more equitable public health future. From expanding access to nutritious foods to advancing culturally responsive care, NWA's equity-centered work ensures every family, regardless of identity or income, has the support they need to thrive. Learn how initiatives like AHEAD 3.0 and our ongoing policy advocacy put these principles into action.

May 12, 2025

## **40 Years of Championing Moms - A Mother's Day Tribute!**

This Mother's Day, we're honoring the everyday strength of WIC moms—and the staff who support them. As we recognize Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week, we reflect on NWA's 40-year commitment to advancing maternal health, uplifting families, and creating a WIC program where every mom feels seen, supported, and valued.



[Register Now](https://www.nwica.org/snippet-webinars-intro)

<https://www.nwica.org/snippet-webinars-intro>

Upcoming Webinars:

Date: Tuesday, July 15th, 3:00pm ET

Register

Title: Nutrient-Dense Powerhouse: Breakfast Cereal's Role in the WIC Program - Hosted by General Mills, Post Consumer Brands, and WK Kellogg Co.

Description: Breakfast cereal has served as a source of iron in the WIC food package since the inception of the WIC program addressing and preventing anemia among participants. Over time the WIC food packages have been updated to align with the most recent nutrition science, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and to address the cultural preferences and dietary needs of participants. Throughout these updates, breakfast cereal has continued to be included in the WIC food package in recognition of its important role in delivering iron, folate and other key nutrients to the WIC population.

This presentation will review the long-standing role the science-based Dietary Guidelines for Americans have had in informing nutrition policy and the marketplace, research on cereal's positive impact on nutrient and food group intakes, particularly for children in the WIC program, and the relation of cereal consumption on health outcomes in the WIC population and beyond. It will also address the role of processed foods, including cereal, in a healthy dietary pattern and in addressing nutrients of need. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the nutritional benefits of cereal and how encouraging its redemption contributes to nutrient and food group intakes of WIC participants.

Speakers: Sarah Ludmer, RD, Chief Wellbeing and Sustainable Business Officer, WK Kellogg Co

& Jessica Campbell, PhD, Director of Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition, General Mills



## **NWA Hosts Briefing on MODERN WIC Act and Funding on Capitol Hill**

On June 17, the National WIC

Association (NWA), Bread for the World, and the Alliance to End Hunger hosted a [Congressional](#) briefing where U.S. Representatives and advocates voiced strong support for the MODERN WIC Act, WIC's Cash Value Benefit (CVB), and full funding for the program. The briefing highlighted WIC's impact as a public health nutrition program throughout its more than 50-year history, focusing on innovations like remote services that made it easier for parents to access benefits, and the CVB, which helps families purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Read more about the briefing [here](#).

## **FNS**

### **Sends Letter to States on Artificial Food Colors**

On June 17, FNS Administrator James C. "JC" Miller sent a letter to State Health Commissioners, requesting their cooperation in voluntarily reviewing and removing artificial food colors, specifically petroleum-based synthetic dyes, from foods in their WIC-approved product lists. While some states already require WIC foods to exclude these ingredients, this letter indicates that there may be future actions, including a nationwide phase-out from the food supply by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## **USDA Proposes New SNAP Participant Information Database**

On Monday, June 23, the USDA [published a notice in the Federal Register](#) indicating its intent to establish a new federal participant information database in SNAP. According to the notice, the database will fulfill the President's Executive Orders related to immigration: Executive Order 14243 of March 20, 2025, Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos and Executive Order 14218 of February 19, 2025, Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders. USDA's efforts to collect protected SNAP participant information have been the subject of an ongoing [lawsuit](#).

## **Senate May Take Up Budget Reconciliation Package, Parliamentarian Rules Out Key Provisions**

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) has indicated that he intends to bring his chamber's version of the House budget reconciliation bill, *One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB)*, to the Senate floor for a vote this week. The bill currently includes significant cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, as well as other essential programs that support basic needs. While WIC is not part of the package, any cuts to SNAP or Medicaid eligibility and access could have a [ripple effect on](#) WIC participation. However, late last week, the Senate parliamentarian ruled that the key SNAP provisions violated the rules of budget reconciliation and would require 60 votes for passage. This means that the Senate Agriculture Committee will need to amend its proposals to achieve sufficient savings to cover the costs of their Farm Bill and other costly provisions.





We're excited to announce that our new Recipe Calendars are coming soon! Each calendar features simple, nutritious, and WIC-approved recipes designed to support families with healthy meal ideas throughout the year.

These will be perfect for clinics, community events, and outreach efforts and we can't wait to share them with you!

Take a quick survey to help shape the next wave of NWA items. From measuring cups to water bottles, t-shirts, and more! Take the Survey!

[Take the Survey!](#)

**Join the FMNP Community of Practice!**

The Community of Practice will launch as part of the Increasing Access to Healthy Food through Farmers' Markets initiative funded by the Elevance Health Foundation. This three-year project aims to increase access to fruits and vegetables by helping WIC participants redeem their FMNP benefits and the core WIC fruit and vegetable Cash Value Benefit (CVB) at farmers' markets. The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Community of Practice is a collaborative space for sharing best practices and resources, exploring challenges, and advancing the WIC FMNP through innovative solutions. The Community of Practice aims to strengthen FMNP implementation and increase use of FMNP and WIC Cash Value Benefit (CVB) benefits at farmers' markets.

The Community of Practice will foster peer learning and knowledge exchange through interactive webinars, the development of new resources, and the collection and centralization of existing FMNP materials for easy access and use. Members will collaboratively explore programmatic and technical challenges, elevate promising practices, and accelerate the adoption of strategies that enhance access, advance equity, and increase impact across State and Local Agency FMNP efforts.

# ART FUSTON AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

## AWARD NOMINEES

### Quarter 1:

**Art Fuston** – Jennifer Ranspot. Jennifer has served TALWD in several capacities including being Vice President and a member of the Technology Task Force. She is always willing to step up and fill in gaps when needed and provides encouragement and support for new members. She brings a unique and valuable perspective to TALWD as she functions as a CA in her Local Agency. It can be challenging for Directors of smaller LA's to find time to be active in TALWD and still complete daily duties; however, Jennifer willingly makes this sacrifice for the betterment of the WIC program. Jennifer participates on multiple task forces to help support TALWD and WIC. She is also very kind and supportive of all her colleagues on the board.

**Customer Service** – Tiffany Brown. Tiffany is always a pleasure to work with. She is knowledgeable about WIC policies, responds to LA questions in a timely manner, and goes the extra mile to assist us. She has also done an excellent job planning the Texas WIC Nutrition and Breastfeeding Conference over the past few years.

**Newcomer** – Kathy Almaraz. Kathy has been an excellent addition to the board and has a light hearted and kind attitude that is contagious. She has done a great job in her role as the Nutrition Education committee chair. She brings a great deal of insight and expertise to each TALWD board meeting.

### Quarter 2:

**Art Fuston** – Jennifer Gregory. She is the one director I know I can continuously count on for support. She is so knowledgeable and has great insight into all aspects of technology, policy, quality management etc. She does an incredible job in her role as the TALWD Secretary. TALWD has benefitted greatly from her organizational skills. This includes meeting invites, well-kept records, to supporting all those on the executive board, Jennifer does it all. She is humble, kind, and generous. She embodies all the characteristics of the Art Fuston award.

**Customer Service** – Alyssa Rubin. She is consistently responsive in a timely and efficient manner with all requests. She demonstrates excellence in customer service and cares about the local agency's needs. Alyssa hit the ground running when she started with WIC and has not slowed down! She is very knowledgeable and continually works to improve the WIC Food Packages and printed materials and local agency staff trainings.

**Newcomer** – Kelly Bocanegra. Kelly has stepped up to fill in positions in TALWD, and she is currently serving as the chair of the Administration Committee. Prior to becoming a WIC Director, she functioned as an administrator within her LA, so she brings a unique and fresh perspective to TALWD.

### Quarter 3:

**Art Fuston** – Adela Garcia. Adela became a WIC Director and immediately became involved as the TALWD NWA Rep-Elect and now the NWA Representative. She is passionate about WIC and has spoke and presented on her agency's project at NWA. She is active in TALWD and provides a great voice for all Local Agencies. Adela actively listens and provides great input. She is funny, thoughtful and very sweet!

**Customer Service** – TBD

**Newcomer** – TBD