

No. 1986-121

AN ACT

HB 2454

Authorizing the use of State funds to expand a special supplemental food program for women, infants and children.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Women's, Infants' and Children's Nutrition Improvement Act.

Section 2. Declaration of purpose.

It is the purpose of this act to allow for the provision of State funds for use in the expansion of the WIC Program to unserved women, infants and children experiencing nutritional deficiencies, nutritionally related health problems and other maladies which might adversely affect the proper growth and development of persons potentially eligible for WIC services.

Section 3. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

"State WIC supplement." State funds which are added to the Commonwealth's Federal WIC grant for the expansion of services to WIC-eligible persons.

"WIC eligibles." Persons who meet Federal nutritional risk criteria, whose family income falls below 185% of poverty and who fall into one of the following categories:

- (1) Pregnant or postpartum and breast-feeding women.
- (2) Infants.
- (3) Children under five years of age.

"WIC Program." The special supplemental food program for women, infants and children, authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642, 42 U.S.C. § 1786).

Section 4. State supplement.

(a) Determination by General Assembly.—The General Assembly is hereby authorized to provide a State supplement to increase the percentage of WIC Program participation above the level which would be achieved without the State WIC supplement.

(b) Allocation of funds.—Of the funds appropriated by the General Assembly, at least 80% shall be utilized for food and no more than 20% shall be utilized for State and local administration and program services.

(c) Report by local WIC provider.—Each local WIC provider shall report to the department the information on the State-funded program in the same manner and within the same time period as required by the Federal WIC Program.

(d) Report by department.—The secretary shall provide an annual report to the General Assembly, no later than January 1 of each year, which covers the State-administered WIC program for the prior fiscal year.

(e) Outreach program.—From the moneys available for administration, the department shall fund a Statewide outreach project and an evaluation of the effectiveness of WIC services in meeting the stated goals of the program in this Commonwealth.

Section 5. Program operation.

(a) Eligibility of participants.—Participants in the WIC Program enrolled through the use of funds available under the State supplement shall be subject to the same eligibility criteria prescribed by the Federal Government for the existing WIC Program.

(b) Areas for expansion.—The department shall utilize its expansion plan, as required by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642, 42 U.S.C. § 1786) and published in its annual State Agency Plan of Program Operation and Administration, in allocating State funds.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 10th day of July, A. D. 1986.

DICK THORNBURGH