

Executive Summary Form

Agenda Number: 6625

Recommendation:

Approval of ADHS IGA No. CTR040363 Amendment 5 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) Program between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services for the period of 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023 in the amount of \$644,693.00 for WIC and \$63,824.00 for BFPC; and of a new part-time position for the WIC program.

Background (Brief):

Funding for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Supplemental Nutrition and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Programs come from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The overall goal of all USDA Nutrition Programs is to improve the health status of eligible participants through adoption of healthy behavioral lifestyle changes and to help prevent the occurrence of health problems.

The WIC Program is a supplemental nutrition program for income-eligible women, infants, and children. The WIC Program provides income eligible families with nutrition education and referrals to social services within the County. The Program also provides food vouchers to clients for a variety of nutritionally healthy staple foods: milk, eggs, juice, fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, beans, and peanut butter. Income eligibility is 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.

The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program provides counseling and support services that complement the WIC-provided breastfeeding education by allowing for additional, more in-depth education by a peer counselor trained through a breastfeeding curriculum. The goal of the BFPC program is to increase the incidence and duration of breastfeeding for all breastfeeding women in Cochise County.

IGA CTR040363 is based on a monthly caseload of 3,060 pregnant women, post-partum women, infants, and children (up to age 5). Annually WIC serves approximately 10,000 people.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources:

This is a grant-funded, cost reimbursement program from the Arizona Department of Health Services in the annual amount of \$708,517.00. This IGA currently supports salary, ERE's and expenses for 12 staff positions.

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up:

Your approvals are respectfully requested. Send signed IGA to CCHSS, Suzanne Hagle, Prevention Services Division Director.

Impact of Not Approving:

The WIC Program has provided nutrition services to low-income families in Cochise County for over 30 years. Approximately 10,000 county residents and their children would be negatively impacted by the discontinuation of the WIC and BFPC Programs. During these tough economic times, low-income Cochise County families depend on the WIC Program to help meet their nutritional needs, reduce health risks, and improve health outcomes.