

Memo: Improving Access to WIC and SNAP Benefits to Support Child Health

Date:

May 2025

[Download Material](#)

Many families in the Commonwealth struggle to afford the food they need to stay healthy. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) play a vital role in [promoting child health and development](#) and [alleviating food insecurity](#). Despite their known benefits, both WIC and SNAP are underutilized by low-income individuals and families, both across the United States and here in Pennsylvania.

We recently conducted a [qualitative research study](#) to better understand beneficiary perspectives on WIC and SNAP, in order to inform interventions that could close these eligibility to enrollment gaps. In this memo originally written to share with state legislators, but also relevant for other policymakers in the Commonwealth, we summarize themes from our recent research and suggest opportunities for policy improvement.

Authors:

Vasan A, Negro D

Topics

[Equitable Access to Services](#)

[Maternal-Child Health](#)

Related Content

[Reducing Administrative Burdens and Improving Access to Public Benefits to Promote Health Equity](#)

[Modernizing WIC Enrollment to Improve Access to Healthy Food for Children and Families](#)

[Caregiver Perspectives on Improving Government Nutrition Benefit Programs](#)

[Pennsylvania Bureau of WIC Request for Comment: 2026 WIC State Plan of Program Operation and Administration](#)