



Understanding North Carolina WIC Breast Pump Program



The North Carolina WIC Program’s mission is to safeguard the health of women, infants, and children. The benefits of breastfeeding for the parent, infant, and community are well-documented. The North Carolina WIC program takes proactive steps to ensure that WIC families are supported to determine and achieve their infant feeding goals free from commercial interest. We provide breastfeeding support to families enrolled in the WIC Program through evidence-based anticipatory guidance, WIC breastfeeding peer counseling program services, trained staff to provide breastfeeding support, breastfeeding warmlines to answer all breastfeeding questions, and the issuance of breast pumps to participants who need them.



Breast pumps are aids available to postpartum parents who are breastfeeding based on an individual breastfeeding assessment conducted by trained staff. This individual assessment assures that a participant receives the appropriate breast pump for their situation and that the issuance of a breast pump does not circumvent or take the place of appropriate breastfeeding education and support. The WIC Program’s breast pump program is unique because it provides access to quality breastfeeding supplies from the same manufacturer used by their local birthing hospital. In addition, experts help determine the appropriate products and sizes for the correct breast flange fit and provide education on the assembly, use, and care of the supplies. These experts also provide follow-up support, including a phone line to assist with any issues. This ensures that WIC Program participants are supported during their breastfeeding journeys.

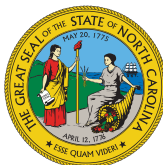


North Carolina WIC Program policies provide guidance to local WIC agencies on how to determine the appropriate breastfeeding supplies for each breastfeeding participant. The following breast pumps are available to WIC Program participants:

- Single-user manual pumps: ideal for occasional separation or to resolve short-term breastfeeding concerns
- Single-user double electric pumps: ideal for a parent who is maintaining their milk supply or is only using the pump intermittently (such as during the workday)
- Multi-user double electric pumps (loaned breastfeeding supply): ideal for a parent who is establishing their supply and the baby is not able to feed at the breast



The North Carolina WIC Program understands that not every situation is alike and provides local WIC agencies flexibility to use their professional judgement and consider the parent’s wishes to determine the best breastfeeding supply for the family’s situation. Additionally, we understand that breastfeeding is a journey and that parents’ needs evolve. The provision of one breastfeeding supply does not preclude the availability of another supply as their situation changes.



NC DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

Contact your local WIC agency to learn more about how they can support you or your patient.