

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office**Measure: HB 2626 - A*****Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Tom MacDonald
Date: April 9, 2019**Measure Description:**

Expands eligibility for Women, Infants and Children Program nutrition assistance to mothers of children up to 12 months of age, paid for with state funds.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium
General Fund - Public Health Division (PHD)		
Personal Services	156,219	290,597
Services and Supplies	103,019	74,692
Special Payments	5,036,272	6,715,017
Total General Fund	\$5,295,510	\$7,080,306
Positions	4	3
FTE	1.27	1.50

Analysis:

HB 2626 expands eligibility for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services to cover mothers of children up to 12 months of age. This population is beyond the current federal eligibility levels and would not be eligible for federal reimbursement. Currently, WIC serves children zero to five years and mothers of children zero to six months. The measure specifies that the costs of providing benefits to mothers of children older than six months will be paid from moneys in the Oregon Health Authority Fund.

OHA estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to be \$5,295,510 General Fund and 4 positions (1.27 FTE) for the 18 months of the 2019-21 biennium; and \$7,080,306 General Fund and 3 positions (1.50 FTE) for the 2021-23 biennium. Included in the estimated Services and Supplies costs for the 2019-21 biennium is \$56,826 of one-time implementation costs to cover a communications media campaign. The need for additional staff reflects OHA's estimate for the level of work required due to the expanded WIC population. Consistent with the benefits provided to the expanded population, staffing costs will likewise not be eligible for federal reimbursement. The estimated Personal Services costs include the following:

- One Operations and Policy Analyst 2 position (0.13 FTE) to help upgrade the program's Management Information System, which does not currently allow for providing services and benefits to participants who would be eligible for WIC under the expansion. This is a Limited Duration position for the 2019-21 biennium.

- One Fiscal Analyst 1 position (0.38 FTE) to track project expenses, process invoices, perform monthly reporting, and increase the level of fiscal oversight necessary to ensure no federal WIC dollars are spent on the expanded WIC population.
- One Research Analyst 2 position (0.38 FTE) to monitor data to ensure the new WIC participants receive the required level of services and to evaluate program effectiveness.
- One Public Health Educator 2 position (0.38 FTE) to create guidelines and other materials for local WIC agency staff, as well as design educational materials tailored to the needs of the expanded WIC population.

Special Payments expenditures assume that the program expansion will encompass 4,671 women, based on estimates as of February 2019 WIC program caseload. The projected 18-month cost per mother for 2019-21 is \$59.90, resulting in an estimated Special Payments cost of \$5,036,272. The projected 24-month cost per child for 2021-23 is \$60.84, resulting in an estimated Special Payments costs of \$6,715,017.

OHA reports that its Office of Information Services (OIS) can implement this expansion with minor changes to the WIC administration system application. This work can be carried out using existing staff and resources.