

October 30, 2025

Honorable Scott D. Wiener, Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anna M. Caballero, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee

Section 28.31—Department of Public Health, Fiscal Year 2025-26, General Fund Loan to Woman's, Infants, and Children Program

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 28.31, Budget Act of 2025, the following report is respectfully submitted.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is requesting to authorize up to \$81 million in short-term General Fund cash loans for the federally funded Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program because of the federal shutdown that began on October 1, 2025. As of October 28, 2025, DPH estimates approximately \$104.3 million in existing funds that are projected to sustain WIC through November 30. If the federal shutdown is anticipated to continue beyond this date and additional funds are not received by the state, the Department of Finance intends to initiate a loan of approximately \$41 million to support the program through December 15. If the shutdown is anticipated to continue beyond December 15, Finance will assess the need for additional short-term General Fund cash loans and process additional loan(s) of up to the remaining amount. Finance will provide an update to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the status of each loan installment. The \$81 million General Fund cash loan is estimated to support the program through December 31, 2025.

This request meets the following criteria, as required in Section 28.31:

- The loan is intended only to meet cash needs resulting from a delay in the receipt of federal funds.
- The loan is short-term and shall be repaid by June 30, 2026, or upon receipt of the federal funds, pursuant to terms and conditions and other determinations established by Finance.

Finance concurs with the necessity of this loan and respectfully submits this notification and requests concurrence from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by Friday, November 7, 2025, so that WIC benefits can continue without interruption.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Nina Hoang, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 445-6423.

JOE STEPHENSHAW

Director

By:



ERIKA LI

Chief Deputy Director

cc: Honorable Dawn Addis, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Roger W. Niello, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Heath Flora, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst (3)
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Christopher W. Woods, Senate President pro Tempore's Office (2)
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus, Office of Policy and Budget
Paul Dress, Caucus Co-Chief of Staff, Assembly Republican Leader's Office
Katja Townsend, Capitol Director, Assembly Republican Leader's Office
Jason Sisney, Assembly Speaker's Office (2)
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Brendan McCarthy, Deputy Secretary of Program and Fiscal Affairs, California Health and Human Services Agency
Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Erica Pan, Director, California Department of Public Health
Brandon Nunes, Chief Deputy Director of Operations, California Department of Public Health
Phuong La, Deputy Director, Administration Division, California Department of Public Health