

# Economic BENEFITS OF WIC



Preterm births cost the U.S. over



THE AVERAGE FIRST YEAR MEDICAL COSTS

**\$54,873**  
for a premature/  
low birth weight baby

— vs. —

**\$7,774**  
for a baby born  
without complications



For very low birth weight babies, a shift of one pound at birth saves approximately

**\$28,000**  
in first year medical costs.

By reducing the number of preterm births and low birth weight babies, WIC is contributing to substantial health care cost savings. It has been estimated that

**\$13 BILLION**

per year would be saved if 90% of U.S. infants were breastfed exclusively for six months.

Currently, only 24.9% of all American infants are exclusively breastfed at six months.

By providing preventive health services during critical periods of growth and development, WIC helps to lower health care costs and improve health outcomes for Americans.



Nearly

**\$1.7 BILLION**

of those resources were provided through WIC cost containment initiatives that save federal tax dollars.



In fiscal year 2016,

**\$3.95 BILLION**

in WIC food benefits were spent in local communities across the country.



There are

**47,000+**

authorized WIC retailers in the U.S., from small corner stores to big box stores.