

MICHIGAN WIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE 2026



Mission: MWA will act as a vehicle for sharing ideas, advocacy, & best practices on planning, operations, coordination, implementation, & administration of the WIC program at the local level.

MWA Goals

- To positively impact & advocate for Local Agencies & participants of Michigan WIC.
- Summarize and communicate concerns raised by Local Agencies with State and National stakeholders.
- Collaborate with MDHHS WIC Division to elevate Local Agency concerns and troubleshoot solutions.
- Represent Michigan WIC at national conferences, workgroups, and taskforces



MWA is part of NWA

- The National WIC Association (NWA) is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of WIC
- The mission is to provide members with tools and leadership to expand and sustain effective nutrition services for mothers and young children
- Provide grassroots support for issues concerning the WIC program



NWA – Member Benefits

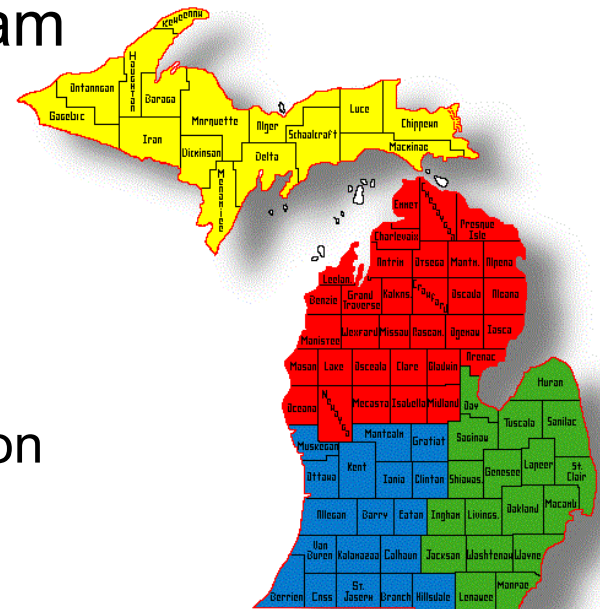
NWA Membership dues have been generously covered by MDHHS

- Resources
 - Newsletters on legislation, funding and policy
 - Monday Morning Report, Association Updates, Washington Updates, and Research to Practice
 - Webcasts: provide training and support for all staff
 - Reports: RD Recruitment and Retention Report, State of WIC Report
 - Online Communities linking Local Agencies on a national level: discussion groups and Daily Digests
 - Free job postings on the NWA website and in Monday Morning Report
 - Social media connections and toolkits
 - Knowledgeable and available association staff
- Events
 - National Conferences
 - Legislative Day: an opportunity to share client and staff experiences to federal legislators

www.nwica.org

Current MWA Board Members

- Executive Board Chair – Kali Jones, InterCare
- Chair Elect – **Open for Election**
- Secretary – Abby Bishop, Kent
- Treasurer – Nathan Reed, Kalamazoo
- Chair Emeritus – Tracie Bolton, Ingham
- Regional Representatives:
 - Region 1 – Jean Ballone, Western UP
 - Region 2 – Anne Bianchi, DHD 10
 - Region 3 – Laurel McCamman, Barry-Eaton
 - Region 4 – Lauren Cody, Macomb



MWA Board Positions

- Executive Board Chair – Provide oversight of the NWA’s mission and leadership in the development of policies to fulfill that mission. Also, assure that the Association develops, tracks, and implements its strategic plan.
- Chair Elect - Assist Executive Board Chair in fulfilling obligations of office.
- Secretary - Participate and keep the records of meetings, sending to Board members for review and approval.
- Treasurer - Prepare and present, in collaboration with the Executive Board, the proposed annual budget to Association members at the Annual Business Meeting.
- Chair Emeritus – Provides guidance and mentorship to incoming Executive Board Members
- Regional Representatives
 - Identify any regional concerns, interests, and issues and bring those matters to the Executive Board.

Why get involved in MWA?

- Collaborate with other Coordinators to collectively bring forward Local Agency needs and concerns
- Work together with fellow Coordinators to navigate Local Agency challenges
- Engagement in National WIC Association conferences
- Participation in NWA Midwest Region meetings
- Represent your colleagues for growth and positive change



MWA Election 2025

- Nominations for Chair Elect
 - Can nominate yourself or anyone else: does not need to be a Coordinator
 - Only one representative from an agency can serve on the board
- Submitting nominations
 - In writing to any board member
 - Can be sent directly to Kali Jones via email:
kjones@intercare.org
- **Deadline for nominations: 11/14/24**
- Election voting will be conducted via online survey sent to all Coordinators: one vote per Coordinator/Agency.