

INFANT FORMULA SHORTAGE

CONNECTICUT AGENCY ACTIONS & UPDATES

The recent nationwide infant formula shortage has created an extremely challenging situation for families who rely on infant formula. Connecticut state agencies are working together to support families with young children. Resources, information, and strategies are evolving to respond to the ongoing national formula shortage.

RESOURCES

The State has created an infant formula fact sheet with tips, guidance, and resources. This has been shared statewide and utilized by families: ctoec.org/news/infant-formula-shortage-tips-and-resources-for-ct-families

DPH

WIC serves 11,317 infants; 7,038 on formula
Status: In April 2022, 75% of standard formula benefits issued to WIC families were purchased.

(90% is approx. average)

WIC has added 11 new formulas to their formula list to allow wider choices, with over 90 formula products now available to participants

WIC families report Similac Advance available in some stores, Similac Sensitive and specialty formulas harder to find

Local agency staff are working with families and providers to identify options and find stores with available products

DSS

Serves 36,750 infants receiving SNAP
Status: SNAP is flexible on formula brand and can be purchased online
DSS is working with suppliers to provide inventory assessments in the coming weeks

Food retailers implemented limits in-store and online to ensure equity for product availability

Pharmacists notify customers and hold product when Rx formulas become available

Most retailers deferred price increases on all formula

FEDERAL ACTIONS & UPDATES

The Biden-Harris Administration is working with manufacturers to ramp up production and with retailers to ensure that infant formula is safe and available for families across the country. These are the key efforts from the federal levels:

- ◆ Getting the Abbott Facility reopened safely
- ◆ Operation Fly Formula - importing infant formula from overseas that meets U.S. health and safety standards; specialty formulas have been prioritized
- ◆ FDA working to import millions of bottles of specialized medical infant formula to increase U.S. supply (U.K.'s Kendal Nutricare will send about 2 million cans to U.S.)
- ◆ Working directly with retailers and manufacturers to boost supply (Gerber increased 50%, Reckitt supplying over 30% more)
- ◆ For further information about federal actions, the public is encouraged to visit hhs.gov/formula

DCF

Serves 600+ infants in their homes, and an additional 218 infants in foster care
Status: 100% of infants have adequate access to formula

Staff, families, caregivers are shopping online and working with pediatricians

Therapeutic Foster Care agencies are working with families and in contact with social workers

Area offices share resources locally, access community donations, use online resources, 211

OEC

Serves 298 infants in Home Visiting programs
Serves 645 infants in Birth to Three (B23) program
Status: A majority of OEC providers report families having trouble finding formula

Monitoring need and supply through engagement and surveys with Birth To Three (B23) and home visitor providers to serve CT families