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

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

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