



## Additional Formula Options for WIC Families

To support families during the infant formula shortage, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is making it easier for WIC participants to purchase more types of formula. On May 31, 2022, the North Carolina WIC Program began issuing benefits for more sizes of Gerber formula and two additional Gerber formula products. Effective June 6, 2022, NC WIC is making even more formula brands and types available to WIC families that can be purchased at the store when approved Gerber products are not readily available. These changes will help families buy the formula that is available in stores throughout the shortage.

WIC families can temporarily **mix and match** formula brands and sizes equivalent to those indicated on their Shopping List up to their food benefit balance. Use the table below to determine the equivalent formula options temporarily available if food benefits list (1) Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder, (2) Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy Powder, or (3) Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder. Reminder: *Use your Bnft® App to scan products to see if they are approved.*

[A full list of product options and sizes is available online.](#) In addition, the following examples will help you understand these additional options. Remember that food benefits for infant formula may be redeemed as:

- ONE CAN = any can smaller than 28 oz.
- TWO CANS = any can greater than 28 oz.

### Example 1

If Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy powder is listed on your Shopping List, you would be able to purchase: Gentle Gerber Good Start Soy, Similac Soy Isomil Powder, Enfamil ProSobee Powder, Parent's Choice Soy Powder, or UP & UP Soy Infant Powder. If Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy Powder is listed on your Shopping List, you cannot purchase formulas under the Gerber Good Start GentlePro or Gerber Good Start SoothePro sections on the table.

### Example 2

If your Shopping List says 6 cans Gerber Good Start Soy, but the product is not available at the retailer, you could choose:

- Two 20-ounce cans Gerber Good Start Soy Powder (counts as 2 cans)
- One 12.9-ounce can Enfamil ProSobee Powder (counts as 1 can)
- One 20.9-ounce can Enfamil ProSobee Powder (counts as 1 can)
- One 36-ounce can UP & UP Soy Infant Formula (counts as 2 cans)

### Example 3

If your Shopping List says 6 cans Gerber Good Start Soothe but the product is not available at the retailer, you could choose:

- One 19.9-ounce can Enfamil Gentlelease Powder (counts as 1 can)

One 27.4-ounce can Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Powder (counts as 1 can)  
One 29.0-ounce can Enfamil Enspire Gentlease Powder (counts as 2 cans)  
One 29.8-ounce can Similac PRO-Total Comfort Powder (counts as 2 cans)

When approved Gerber products are available at the store, continue to purchase those products to keep your baby's feeding consistent. If the formula listed on your Shopping List is not available, please take advantage of these additional formula options. These additional formula options for WIC families are expected to be in place while the formula shortage lasts.

To ensure a smooth transition between formulas, follow the instructions as indicated on the product label. Most infants can transition easily between different formulas and brands, but if you are concerned about your baby, you should discuss your concerns with your health care provider. Tips for a smooth transition between formulas:

- Try slowly introducing small amounts of the new formula by mixing it with your regular formula. Slowly increase the amount of the new formula over time.
- Be patient, since it may take some time for your baby to get used to it.
- If your baby is vomiting, has gas pains, is crying or can't be calmed down during feedings, is losing weight, has diarrhea, has blood or mucus in their poop, or is straining to poop, they may not be tolerating the new formula.
- Call your pediatrician or other health care provider if you have questions.

**Tips Before You Shop:**

- Ask your [local WIC office](#) how these options work for you.
- Scan the product with your NC WIC Bnft® App to confirm it is the correct item before checking out at the register.
- If you have a problem at the register with the new WIC formula options, talk to a manager before paying.
- Remember that you can redeem your benefits during multiple shopping trips. If your store has fewer cans than the number listed on your Shopping List, purchase what you can when you see the formula your infant needs.

Please check with your local WIC office, online at [www.ncdhhs.gov/formula](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/formula), or the NC WIC Bnft® App for the latest updates.