An Orientation for Retail Vendor Applicants 2021-2022

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What is WIC?

What is the role of vendors?

How to become a WIC vendor

Guidance for completing required forms

Orientation to NC WIC Program

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What is WIC?

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- Federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- State-administered by the NC Department of Health and Human Services
- WIC clinical services provided by contracted public health agencies
- NC WIC-authorized vendors are contracted with The NC Department of Health and Human Services and Local WIC Agencies



WIC Works!

- In NC, every WIC dollar spent on a pregnant woman saves multiple dollars in newborn health care costs
- Children on WIC have better diets, particularly for vitamin C, thiamin, protein, niacin and vitamin B₆





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How Stores Become Authorized WIC Vendors

- Vendors work primarily with the Local WIC Agency
- Orientation and training
- Completing required forms in DocuSign
- Technical assistance
- Monitoring
- Local WIC Agency submits required vendor forms to the State WIC Agency
- Vendor is authorized by State WIC Agency

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Types of Vendors

- Vendors under Corporate Agreement
- 20 or more WIC-authorized stores
- Food Lion* Harris Teeter*
- Ingles* Lowe's*
- CVS Wal-Mart*
- Walgreens

- Target

- * Pharmacies within the corporate store that is also WIC approved
- Vendors not under Corporate Agreement

- Publix*



Vendor Applicant's Responsibility

- Attend training by Local WIC Agency
- Meet all selection criteria
- Contact Solutran for preparation in accepting eWIC
- Retailer Helpdesk: 1-866-730-7746 (available 24/7)
- Email: <u>ebtservices@Solutran.com</u>
- Complete required forms accurately and completely using DocuSign
- Understand and follow all Federal and State regulations and rules
- Train all staff handling eWIC transactions

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Local WIC Agency's Responsibility

- Inform Vendor Applicant there is a deposit and monthly lease fee required for a stand-beside device.
- Provide orientation and training to store owner, manager or designee
- Respond to questions about required forms and application process
- Review required forms for completeness
- In a timely manner:
- Perform Pre-authorization Monitoring
- Send required forms to State WIC Agency
- Ensure Vendor is set up to accept eWIC prior to final authorization
- State Agency staff will complete L3 certification testing once equipment has been received by Vendor or Solutran has determined the Vendor's cash register system meets the eWIC requirements



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Local WIC Agency's Responsibility continued

- Inform Vendor of Vendor ID number (to be used on Vendor forms only)
- Provide NC WIC Vendor Transaction Guides
- Address any questions from the Vendor



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Selection Criteria

- Established by U.S. Department of Agriculture and NC WIC Program
 20 items
- Vendor Manual pages 7-8

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Must be authorized as SNAP vendor
- Cannot become WIC authorized vendor if currently disqualified from SNAP or paying a civil money penalty for which the disqualification period would still be running
- •SNAP is also known as Food and Nutrition Services in NC

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Competitive Pricing and Price Limitations

- Peer group structure
- ✓ Peer groups have not-to-exceed (NTEs) prices for each WIC supplemental food and contract formula

Annual Vendor Training

- Vendors, their store manager or other authorized store representative are required to attend annual vendor training
- •Failure to attend annual training by September 30th of each year will result in termination of the WIC Vendor Agreement

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	NC Peer Group System				
	VENDOR PEER GROUPS				
#	STORE TYPE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		
5	Pharmacy	Statewide	Free-standing pharmacy that sells a limited variety of foods		
6	Convenience Store	Statewide	Retailer with a limited assortment of grocery items		
7	Mass Merchandiser	Statewide	Retailer that sells a wide variety of merchandise but also carries groceries and has store locations in most or all states		
ĺ	and Commissary	oraro mao	Grocery store operated by US Defense Commissary on a military base		
8	Independent Grocery	Urban	Retailer that primarily sells groceries with fewer than 11 store locations		
9	Independent Grocery	Non-urban	Retailer that primarily sells groceries with fewer than 11 store locations		
10	Regional Grocery Chain	Urban	Retailer that primarily sells groceries with at least 11 store locations and operates in 2 or more states		
11	Regional Grocery Chain	Non-urban	Retailer that primarily sells groceries with at least 11 store locations and operates in 2 or more states		

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Determining Peer Groups

- Store type
- Geography



Store Types

- Pharmacy pharmacy retailer that sells limited variety of food
- Mass Merchandiser retailer that sells a wide variety of merchandise, but also carries groceries and has outlets in most or all states
- Commissary grocery store operated by US Defense Commissary within the confines of a military installation
- Convenience Store retailer with limited assortment of grocery items

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Store Types continued

- Independent Grocery a vendor that primarily sells groceries in fewer than eleven store locations
- Regional Grocery Chain a vendor that primarily sells groceries in eleven or more store locations whose parent company operates in more than two states

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Geography

- Geography determined by using Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) file and documentation from USDA Economic Research Service (ERS)
 - Classifies census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting; and
 - Identifies urban, large rural, small rural, and isolated areas.

Not-to-Exceed (NTE) Prices

- NTEs are set at 2 standard deviations above the average price for supplemental foods within a vendor peer group.
 NTEs are not set for exempt infant formula, WIC-eligible nutritionals or fruits and vegetables purchased with cashvalue Benefits (CVBs)
 - ✓ Calculated for each WIC supplemental food
 - ✓Based on redemption of all vendors in the peer group
 - √Obtained from the eWIC system
 - Different NTEs for different sizes of the same food even if it is the same brand
- Foods and Contract Formula

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NTEs vs. Current Shelf Price

- Vendors must charge current shelf price
- Vendors DO NOT have to charge the NTE
- Charges for WIC transactions must be less than or equal to charges to regular customers
- Vendors cannot set their prices at the NTE and charge other customers less. This is a federal violation for which a vendor can be disqualified

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Minimum Redemption

- Vendor must redeem at least \$2,000 annually in WIC supplemental food sales
- •If not, the Vendor Agreement will be terminated
- •The store must wait 180 days to reapply

Contract Infant Formulas

- NTEs are set for milk-based and soy-based formulas
- Brands must be contract infant formulas:
- Gerber Good Start Gentle®
- 12.7 oz cans Powder **
- · 8.1 oz Concentrate Containers (GentlePro)
- 33.8 oz Ready to Feed (4 pack of 8.45
 Gerber Good Start SoothePro® oz Containers) (GentlePro)
- · Gerber Good Start Soy®
- · 12.9 oz cans Powder **
- · 8.1 oz Concentrate Containers
- · 33.8 oz Ready to Feed (4 pack of 8.45 oz Containers)
- - · 12.4 oz cans Powder

** Minimum Inventory item



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WIC Approved Foods with No NTE

- NTEs do not apply to exempt infant formula or WIC-eligible nutritionals
- Open market system (shelf price)
- Exempt infant formula and WIC-eligible nutritionals can be found at www.nutritionnc.com/wic/vendor.htm
- NTEs do not apply to fruits and vegetables purchasable with cash-value benefits (CVBs)



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Purchasing and Providing Infant Formula From State-Approved Sources

- •WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 requires vendors to purchase infant formula from a State-approved source
- Infant formula, exempt infant formula, and WICeligible nutritionals provided to WIC customers must be purchased directly from the State-approved sources
- Must keep invoices and receipts showing sources of formula
- •Failure to do so will result in termination of the WIC Vendor Agreement



WIC Price Lists

Price List Submission

- Vendor applicants must submit price lists at initial authorization which have prices at or below the NTE for their assigned peer group
- Authorized vendors must submit a price list if requested by the State WIC Agency

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Applicant Prices Must Be At Or Below NTE

PRICE OF WIC FOODS

> NTE =

WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED

Opportunity to resubmit within 30 days to become authorized

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Resubmitted Price List

Written denial

Must wait **90 days** to reapply

Predominantly WIC Vendor (PWV)

- A predominantly WIC vendor, also known as a PWV, is a vendor that derives more then 50% of their food sales from WIC food benefits.
- •PWVs cannot be authorized NC WIC vendors
- If a vendor applicant is expected to be a PWV, the application will be denied
- If a vendor becomes a PWV anytime during authorization, the Vendor Agreement will be terminated
- Must wait 90 days to reapply
- Selection Criteria Listed in Vendor Agreement

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Predominantly WIC Vendor (PWV) continued

- State WIC Agencies are required to identify vendors that derive more than 50% of their annual food sales revenue from WIC food redemption
- The USDA classifies these vendors as Above 50% Vendors
- •In North Carolina, these stores are called Predominantly WIC vendors (PWVs)
- State WIC Agency collects data to determine total SNAPeligible food sales as part of the PWV identification process

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SNAP-eligible Food Sales Records

- Vendors must maintain a record of all SNAP-eligible food sales
- SNAP-eligible food sales are sales of those foods that can be purchased with SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits
- Vendors are required to provide the State WIC Agency, upon request, a statement of the total amount of revenue derived from SNAP-eligible food sales and written documentation to support the amount of sales claimed

PWV Identification

- •What is SNAP-eligible?
- Any item that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Food Sales
- The sale of all foods that could be purchased with SNAP benefits.
- Food Sales Fact Sheet

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Appropriate Documentation

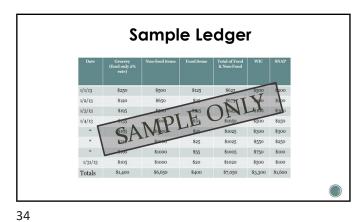
- Each year select vendors are asked to submit SNAP-eligible food sales as part of PWV determination
- Request sales records, financial statements, reports, tax documents or other verifiable documentation
- Keep a monthly copy in files

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Verifiable Documentation of SNAPeligible Food Sales

- Ledger Totals
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly cash register receipts totaled in a ledger (DO NOT send actual cash register receipts)
- Some registers have the ability to separate out different types of items
- It is highly recommended that Vendors maintain this type of system. Makes this annual process easier.
- Sales and Use Tax returns are not always sufficient for documenting complete SNAP-eligible food sales
- These returns may be used along with ledger totals to verify a vendor's documentation of SNAP-eligible food sales





Different Types of Documentation



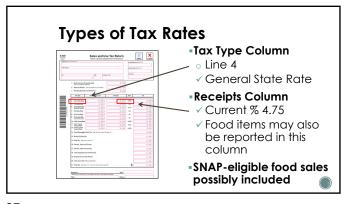
- Sales and Use Tax Return
 If your store files
 electronically, it is
 recommended that you
 keep a copy for your records
 as this documentation may
 be requested as additional
 documentation
 Additional information may
 still be requested from the
 State WIC Agency if these
 forms are submitted as
 documentation

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Type of Tax Rates



- Tax Type Column
- o Line 8
- √2% Food Rate
- ✓ Any food sold that only requires a tax of 2%
- Receipts Column
- o Line 8
- ✓ Dollar (\$) total of food sold at the 2% food rate



GEN-93 FORM



- Release of Tax Information
- Authorizes WIC to acquire the vendor's E-500 forms directly from Department of Revenue (DOR)
- Must be completed accurately matching what DOR has on file for store
- Must be notarized

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Submitting False Information

- Vendors must not submit false, erroneous, or misleading information to the State or Local WIC Agency
- Failure to comply will lead to denial of a vendor applicant's authorization or termination of an authorized vendor's WIC Vendor Agreement
- •The store must wait 1 year to become eligible to reapply for WIC vendor authorization

Equitable Treatment

- Section 246.12(h)(3)iii of the Federal WIC Regulations requires WIC-authorized vendors to offer WIC customers the same courtesies that are offered to other (non-WIC) customers
- \checkmark WIC customers cannot be excluded from instore promotions
- Failure to provide the same courtesies to WIC customers is a violation of Federal WIC Regulations, thereby constituting a vendor violation
- ✓ Discrimination on the basis of WIC participation
- √May result in disqualification



Definitions

- Incentive item an item or service provided by a vendor to attract customers or encourage customer lovalty
- Vendor discount an in-store promotion that reduces the price or increase the quantity of a given product; a vendor discount could also result from the use of a coupon
- In-store promotion a sales promotion in which a vendor may offer incentive items, vendor discounts or coupons in order to increase sales of certain items or to encourage customer loyalty to the vendor

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Incentive Items

- Incentive items must be approved by the North Carolina WIC Program prior to providing them to WIC customers
- •The North Carolina WIC Program may approve incentive items-including food, merchandise or services-that a vendor obtained at no cost or that cost a vendor less than \$2.00. Vendors may also provide food sales or specials (vendor discounts) that involve no cost or cost the vendor less than \$2.00



Approval for Incentive Items

- •To obtain approval to provide incentive items to WIC customers, a vendor must submit a written request directly to the North Carolina State WIC Agency.
- WIC vendors cannot offer incentive items to WIC customers without approval from the State WIC Agency

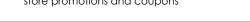
Approval for Incentive Items continued

- •Following is a list of prohibited incentive items:
- Assistance applying for WIC benefits
- Transportation for WIC customer to and/or from vendor premises
- Delivery of WIC supplemental foods
- Lottery tickets
- Cash gifts
- Any other service that results in a conflict of interest, any item that incurs a liability to the WIC Program or violates any Federal, State or Local law or regulation

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In-Store Promotions and Coupons

- Allowing WIC customers to use vendor discounts in WIC purchases reinforces wise food purchasing practices
- Vendor staff/cashiers should be well-informed about the use of different types of in-store promotions and coupons
- √Understand the temporary nature of some offers in order to reduce confusion at the point of sale
- Know how to properly transact eWIC using instore promotions and coupons





Types of In-Store Promotions and Coupons

- Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO)
- Buy One, Get One at a Reduced Price
- Free Ounces Added to Food Item by Manufacturer (Bonus Size Items)
- Transaction Discounts
- Store Loyalty/Rewards Cards
- Manufacturers' Cents Off Coupons

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In-Store Promotions: BOGOs and eWIC

Per the USDA WIC EBT Operating Rules:

- In a true BOGO, the free item cannot be deducted from the WIC customer's benefit balance or reported to the State Agency
- If a food item is advertised as "Buy one, get one free" with the disclosure that each item is sold for half the advertised price, both food items shall be redeemed using WIC benefits and shall reflect an item price of half the advertised price in the transaction
- ✓Quantity discount
- √If using this methodology for BOGOs, vendors must put this disclosure in store advertising

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Sales Tax & Cash Back

- Sales Tax on Manufacturers' Coupons
- ✓Not permitted to tax WIC items, so cannot charge WIC customers tax on manufacturer's coupons
- Cash Back
- Not permitted as a result of vendor discount in any WIC transaction

What about exchanges?

- Identical items only when:
- Defective
- spoiled or
- has exceeded its "best if used by" or "sell by" date on the date of purchase





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Automated Clearing House (ACH)

- Vendors will receive payment for all eWIC transactions processed in their store through an Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) system in which payments are directly deposited into their bank account
- With eWIC, most items will have an NTE
- •If a vendor submits an item price that is above the NTE (for the items with NTEs), their payment will be decreased to the NTE amount for the item



Changes in Vendor Bank Accounts



- Vendor applicants that need a stand-beside device, must submit their most current banking information to the eWIC contractor, Solutran
- Vendor applicants with integrated cash register systems will provide banking information to their third-party processor to ensure payment for eWIC transactions

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Vendor Reimbursement Policy

- Vendors may not ask the WIC customer to make up the difference in price for eWIC transactions
- Vendors are responsible for keeping their prices at or below the NTE for their peer group

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Split Tender Transactions

- Customer can pay for an amount that exceeds the CVB maximum
- √Example: \$10.00 CVB
- √Total cost of WIC fruits and vegetables is \$10.25. Customer can pay 25¢ plus tax on the 25¢ or use other acceptable methods to pay for the outstanding balance, e.g SNAP which is not taxable
- √Vendor submits an eWIC transaction for \$10.00 in CVBs

Food Substitution

- Vendors must properly transact the WIC supplemental foods that are listed on the customer's food benefit balance
- Vendors cannot substitute one food subcategory for another unless granted a waiver by the State WIC Agency

 Federal violation that carries 1-year
 - disqualification
 - Example: Substituting 1% Milk/Skim Milk for 2% Milk or

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Use of Scanning Sheets Prohibited

- Vendors <u>cannot</u> use a collection of UPC barcodes on Scanning Sheets, cash registers, computers, tablets, cell phones or any other similar electronic devices to transact eWIC
- Failure to comply with this policy could result in termination of their WIC Vendor Agreement



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Ideas

- •Keep a copy of the North Carolina WIC Vendor Transaction Guide at each register
- Prevent mistakes with good training
- Review common errors with staff on a regular basis





Milk C Approved Criteria Pasteurized cow's milk Skim/1%/2%/Whole Lactose-reduced/free Ultra High Temperature (UHT) Evaporated Organic Gallons, half gallons, quarts and cans* Evaporated milk only



Milk

- •Two (2) types required...
 •Skim/Low fat
- Whole
- •Quantity required...
- •Skim/1% = six (6) gallons
- ·Whole = two (2) gallons



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Cheese

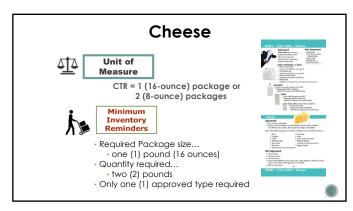
Mozzarella

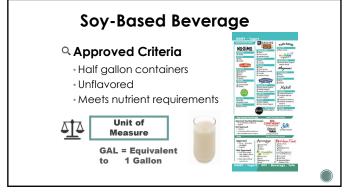
Muenster Provolone Swiss

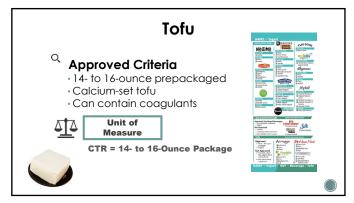
Approved Criteria

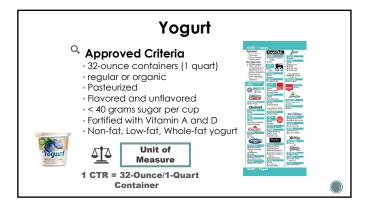
- · 8-ounce and 16-ounce (1 Pound) sizes of
- all types of approved packaged cheese Low-sodium varieties
- Reduced-fat/cholesterol varieties
 Organic or Regular
- Types:
- Cheddar (Mild, Medium, Sharp, Extra Sharp)
 Colby
 Monterey Jack
- Pasteurized Processed

Americar









Frozen or Shelf-stable Concentrate:

11.5-to-12-ounce containers

Single Strength

48- and 64-ounce containers

100% fruit or vegetable juice or blends

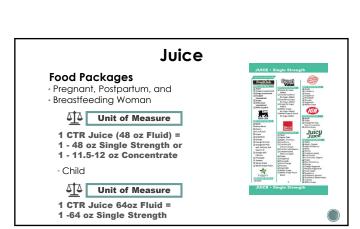
Unsweetened and Pasteurized

Fortified with Calcium, Vitamin D or Vitamin C

Contains >30mg of Vitamin C per 100 ml

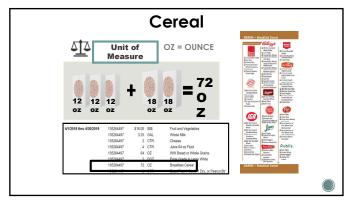
Plastic, glass, cans or refrigerated paper cartons

Organic varieties





Cereal Approved Criteria 12-ounce or larger box or bag, regular or organic Ready to eat Instant and regular hot cereal



Cereal

Required package size...



Minimum Inventory Reminders

12-ounce package (minimum size)

Quantity required...

six (6) packages

Two (2) approved types whole grain cereals required

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Whole Grain Cereal vs. **Non-Whole Grain Cereal**

- · Only whole grain cereal can count toward minimum inventory
- Some non-whole grain cereal is currently listed in our authorized product list (APL) and allowed for purchase; however, they cannot be counted toward minimum inventory. Example include:
 - Rice Krispies (various brands)
 Corn Flakes (various brands)
 Special K
 Corn Chex
 Rice Chex
 Cinnamon Chex
 Blueberry Chex



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Whole Grains

QApproved Criteria

- Whole wheat tortillas
- Soft corn tortillas
- Whole grain/whole wheat bread Guis
- ■Brown rice







Q Breads

- 16-ounce loaf, regular or organic
- 100% whole-grain and/or whole-wheat bread





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Q

Tortillas

- 16-ounce package regular or organic
- Soft corn tortillas (yellow or white)
- Whole wheat tortillas



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Breads and Tortillas

- Required package size...
- 16-ounce loaf of bread
- 16-ounce package of tortillas



Minimum Inventory Reminders

- •Quantity required....
- •Two (2) loaves or packages OR
- ·One (1) loaf and One (1) package

Q Brown Rice

- 14 to 16-ounce bag or box, regular or organic
- Plain, whole grain brown rice
- Instant, quick or regular cooking



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Brown Rice



Minimum Inventory Reminders

- •Required Package Size...
- •14 to 16- ounce package
- •Quantity Required....
- ·Two (2) packages

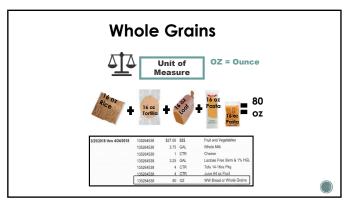
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QWhole-Wheat Pasta

- 16-ounce packages regular or organic
- 100% whole grain and/or whole wheat
- All shapes









Eggs Required package size... One (1) dozen Quantity required... Two (2) packages Must be Grade A and large size White eggs only

Beans, Peas, and Lentils Q Dry (Any type) plain, unseasoned mature, regular or organic Canned (Any type) plain, unseasoned mature, regular or organic Low sodium • 15 to 16-ounce can

Beans, Peas, and Lentils Food Benefits Cash-value Benefits Mature Vegetable Black Beans • Green Beans Butter Beans • Green Peas · Lima Beans Snap Peas Garbanzo Beans Snow Peas Soybeans Snap Beans Lentils • Garden Peas Split Peas Wax Beans

Beans, Peas, and Lentils • Required package size...

· one (1) pound

 Quantity required... • two (2) packages of dry

· Only one (1) approved type required

Canned beans, peas, lentils = NOT REQUIRED

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Q Peanut Butter

- 16 to 18-ounce container
- · Less sugar, lower-sodium, salt-free, reduced-fat varieties
- Plain, creamy, crunchy, chunky or whipped
- · 'Natural', organic varieties



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Peanut Butter

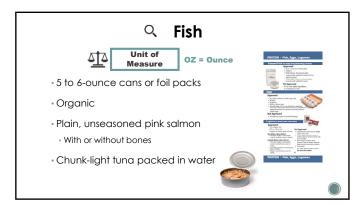
- •Required package size...
- •16- to 18-ounce containers





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Beans, Peas, Lentils and Peanut Butter Unit of Measure 1 CTR Beans/Peas or Peanut Butter = 16 oz dry 4 cans (15-16 oz each) *Note: 1 can = 0.25 Container OR 16-18 oz jar



Tuna

- •Required Package Size...
- ·5 to 6-ounce can
- Required Quantity...six (6) cans



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O Infant Formula

- WIC participants must purchase what is specified on their food benefit account:
 - Brand
 - Size
 - Type
 - Quantity

Formula		
Approved Chryster-brand, size Servellin Sci.	tiger, and quantity specified on year WiChool	
THE WICH	s here to help you achieve reastfeeding goals.	
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200	agency takey and eat about the	
20 N	droughedby serving, support, and find participes	
K 0.4	avolute to yea.	
	2	
Meats		
For fully-braced flav	oling infants after 6 months of age	
_	Approved	
(818)	* Plain treat with gravy or with least.	
	of Organic Information.	
Giller & Story Giller & Story	Not Approved	
war	* Most and registable minimum. * Minimum membranish width ordered south	
Boorhaid		
Stage I Classics	 Infant neuto-with added DRA/MA, orrege 3 fats, prefection angles problettion. 	
2 Boof & Boof Broth 2 Octoor & Octoor	A 1 Man	
State & Teles	Garter (1900)	
and the same	MACRICAL STREET	
-	Grant Chebra U Seef with Grown	
A Copper Chrosen	Utter & Families Uters Uters with Green	
Grigorii fulley	U tokes & Turkey Gray	
	*	
INFANT+Fo	rmula/Meats	

NC WIC Program Contract Formula

- · Gerber Good Start Gentle®
- 12.7 oz cans Powder
- · 8.1 oz Concentrate Containers (GentlePro)
- 33.8 oz Ready to Feed (4 pack of 8.45 oz Containers) (GentlePro)
- · Gerber Good Start SoothePro®
- · 12.4 oz cans Powder
- · Gerber Good Start Soy®
- · 12.9 oz cans Powder
- · 8.1 oz Concentrate Containers
- 33.8 oz Ready to Feed (4 pack of 8.45 oz Containers)

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Infant Formula (Powder)



Minimum
Inventory

Two types required...

- Quantities required...
- Gerber Good Start Gentle® Gerber Good Start Gentle®
 - eight (8) cans

Gerber Good Start Soy®

- Required package size... Gerber Good Start Soy®
- 11.0-14.0-ounce cans
- · four (4) cans

• 11.0-14.0-00ffce caris

No Minimum Inventory for Concentrate or Ready to Feed

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Q Infant Cereal

- 8-ounce box of plain, dry infant cereal, regular or organic
 - n of 45



 Must contain minimum of 45 mgs of iron per 100 grams of dry cereal



OZ = Ounce

Infant Cereal

- Required package size...
- eight (8)-ounce package
- · Quantity required...



Minimum Inventory

- six (6) boxes
- · Only one (1) approved type required

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- Plain meat with gravy or with broth regular or organic
- 2.5-ounce containers, single or multi pack



Unit of Measure







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Q Infant Fruits & Vegetables

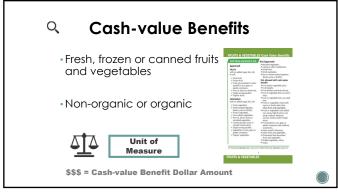


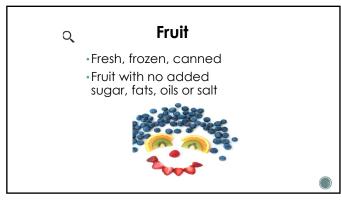
- Regular or organic varieties
- Single fruit or blends of fruits
- Single vegetable or blends of vegetables
- · Combination of Infant fruits and vegetables
- · 2-ounce (2 pack),
- 3.5-ounce or 4-ounce containers single or multi pack



Infant Fruits & Vegetables Required package size.... 3.5 to 4-ounce containers one (1) type of fruit and one (1) type of vegetable Quantity Required.... 64 ounces total (or ~16-18 Containers)

Shopping for Infant Foods		
Food	Amount Listed	Is Equal To
Infant Fruits & Vegetables	128 OZ	32 2 oz-2 pack or 4-oz containers of infant fruits and vegetables. 18 3.5 oz-2 pack containers of infant fruits and vegetables.
		16 4 oz-2 pack containers of Infant fruits and vegetables.
Infant Meats	77.5 OZ	31 2.5-oz containers of infant meats.



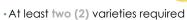


Canned Fruit



Minimum Inventory Reminders

- Required package size...
- 14 to 16-ounce cans
- •Quantity required...
- 10 cans



Combinations allowed

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$_{ extsf{Q}}$ Vegetables

- Fresh, frozen and canned
- No added sugar, fats or oils
- Vegetables can contain added salt



Canned Vegetables

- · Required Package size...
- 14- to 16-ounce cans





- Quantity required...
- 10 cans
- At least two (2) varieties required
- Combinations allowed
- · Canned vegetables vs. beans, peas and lentils
- · NO canned mature legumes
- · Lima beans do NOT count

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Fruits and Vegetables - Not Approved

- Breaded vegetables
- Fruit packed in cans, glass or plastic containers with
 - Catsup or other condiments
 - · Dried fruit
 - Dried vegetables Salsa
 - Sauerkraut
- Fruit and/or vegetable juices*
 - Fruit baskets
- artificial sweeteners
 Fruit leathers and fruit roll
 - Fruit or vegetable items on party trays
 - Fruit or vegetable items on salad bars
 - * May obtain when included in food benefits

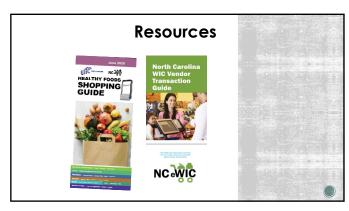


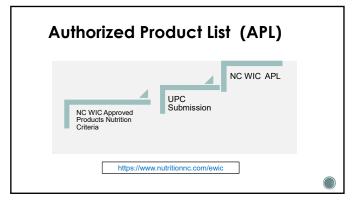
107

Fruits and Vegetables - Not Approved

- Fruits or vegetables mixed with sauces or foods other than other fruits or vegetables
 - Herbs used for flavoring
 - Infant fruits and vegetables*
- Mature legumes (dry or canned beans, peas, lentils)*
- Ornamental or decorative fruits or vegetables
- · No added sugars, fats or
- Fruits and vegetables with added corn syrup, highfructose corn syrup, maltose, dextrose, sucrose,
- honey, and/or maple syrup Pickled vegetables, olives
 - Soups
- * May obtain when included in food benefits







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Summary

- NC WIC Program offers a variety of nutritious foods
- Participants no longer need to purchase the least expensive brand for milk, cheese or eggs
- APL = Authorized Product List: a list of all approved WIC products
- · Consider a food category 'unit of measure'
- Required minimum inventory must be available to WIC customers

After Authorization

- Process EBT transactions accurately, in a timely manner, and in accordance with the terms of the North Carolina WIC Vendor Agreement. Maintain compliance with the EBT Processor Vendor Agreement, the FNS EBT operating rules, standards and technical requirements, WIC Program Rules, and state and federal regulations, and statutes
- Maintain certified eWIC system that is available for WIC redemption processing during all hours the store is open
- Request eWIC Processor re-certify the vendor's eWIC system if it is altered or revised in any manner that impacts eWIC redemption

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After Authorization continued

- Should a vendor that uses stand-beside device(s) to transact eWIC decide to upgrade to an integrated system, the vendor must:

 Inform the eWIC processor before making <u>any</u> change, so that it can be determined if the system needs to be certified and testing can be performed to establish connectivity.

 Inform the State WIC Agency so that Level III certification testing can be performed prior to use of the system in the store.
- Testing performed with the eWIC processor for a new system that a vendor chooses to use does not supersede the L3 certification testing that must be performed by the State WIC Agency.
- These procedures also apply to vendors who alter the integrated system that they currently use or decide to use a different integrated system altogether.

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After Authorization continued

- The State WIC Agency, not the eWIC processor, must grant final approval before a new system or system that has been altered is used by a vendor
- Vendors must inform the State WIC Agency if their residus most filioffi file state wic Agency if their integrated cash register system will be altered or revised in any manner that impacts eWIC redemption. This is a requirement detailed in the Terms of Vendor Agreement. Failure to do so may result in the termination of their WIC Vendor Agreement

After Authorization continued

Integrated Vendors:

There is no need for WIC customers to separate their items when transacting WIC benefits. Do not make them separate their WIC items from non-WIC items. All items can be rung up together; however, the WIC customer must swipe their eWIC card first before any other tender type is applied to ensure that the proper items are deducted from the WIC customer's benefit balance before another tender type is used for purchase.

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After Authorization continued

- It is important to continue to follow policies and procedures to maintain authorization
- Federal regulations provide process to support program integrity

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Termination of WIC Vendor Agreement

- Change in ownership will result in termination of the WIC Vendor Agreement by the State WIC Agency
- Change in store location of more than three miles from the store's previous location will result in termination of the WIC Vendor Agreement by the State WIC Agency
- Cessation of operations, withdrawal from the WIC Program or disqualification from the WIC Program will result in termination of the WIC Vendor Agreement by the State WIC Agency

Business Integrity Standards

- May not have any owners, officers or managers who have been convicted of or had a civil judgment entered against them in the last six years for any activity indicating a lack of business integrity
- Convictions or civil judgments include, but is not limited to: fraud, antitrust violations, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, making false claims, or obstruction of

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Conflict of Interest

- A vendor shall not have any owner(s), officer(s) or manager(s) who are employed, or who have a spouse, child, or parent employed by the State WIC Program or the Local WIC Program serving the county in which the vendor conducts business
- A vendor shall not have an employee who handles transactions of WIC food or cash-value benefits who is employed by or has a spouse, child or parent who is employed by the State WIC Program or Local WIC
- Ask your staff if they have a spouse, child or parent who works for the WIC program
 If they do, report it to your vendor contact at your Local WIC

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Violations and Sanctions

- A violation is an infraction of WIC Program regulations or other requirements
- A sanction is an administrative action taken as a result of a pattern of violations and may include:
- ✓ Disqualification or civil money penalty in lieu of disqualification



Violations

Any intentional or unintentional action of a vendor's owners, officers, managers, agents or employees, with or without knowledge of

management, that violates the WIC	
Vendor Agreement or federal or state	
statutes, regulations, policies or	
procedures governing the Program	

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Types of Violations

- Federal violations for which vendors are subject to disqualification
 - √Federal violations carry longest disqualification periods
 - ✓ Found through compliance buys and inventory audits
- State violations for which vendors are subject to disqualification
- ✓ Usually found during compliance buys and Local WIC Agency monitoring

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Vendor Violations and Sanctions

- 10A NCAC 43D.0710 states a vendor shall be disqualified from the WIC Program for:
 - One year for three occurrences within a 12-month period of failure to properly transact WIC food benefits by manually entering the EBT card number or entering the PIN into the POS instead of the WIC customer, scanning the UPC or PLU codes from UPC codebooks or reference sheets when completing a WIC customer's EBT transaction, not entering the correct quantity and item price, or not providing the WIC customer with a receipt that shows the items purchased and the customer's remaining food benefit balance.



Vendor Violations and Sanctions continued

As a Reminder:

- 10A NCAC 43D.0708 (20)(j) states that the vendor must:
- Scan or manually enter Universal Product Codes (UPC) only from approved supplemental foods being purchased by the WIC customer in the types, sizes, and quantities available on the WIC customer's EBT account. The vendor shall not scan codes from UPC codebooks or reference sheets;
- This requirement is also listed in the current Terms of Vendor Agreement.

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Vendor Violations and Sanctions continued

- •180 days for three occurrences within a 12month period of failure to make EBT point of sale equipment accessible to WIC customers to ensure that EBT transactions are completed in accordance with 10A NCAC 43D .0708(20).
- •90 days for three occurrences within a 12-month period of failure to comply with minimum lane coverage criteria required by 7 CFR 246.12(z)(2) and 10A NCAC 43D .0708(20)(c).

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Pattern of Occurrences

- •The nature of the violation and the number of violations determine the sanction imposed
- A pattern of occurrences for the same violation can result in disqualification
- •The number of occurrences needed to establish a pattern depends on the violation

Examples of Patterns of Violations

- Three occurrences within a 12-month period of failure to stock required minimum inventory
- Two occurrences of vendor overcharging within a 12-month period
- Three occurrences of not making eWIC equipment accessible to the WIC customer
- Three occurrences within a 12-month period of failure to mark the current shelf prices of all WIC supplemental foods

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Compliance Buys and Audits

- State WIC Programs are required to identify and investigate high-risk vendors
- NC sometimes works with the U.S. Office of Inspector General for investigations
- •See Vendor Manual

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Compliance Buys

- Undercover purchases by a compliance investigator
- May make multiple visits over one year
- Vendors may receive a letter from the State WIC Agency if problems are noted



Vendor Overcharging

- Intentionally or unintentionally charging more for supplemental food provided to a WIC customer than a non-WIC customer or charging more than the current shelf price for supplemental food provided to a WIC customer
- •Overcharging is a serious federal violation that can lead to vendor disqualification
- This violation is uncovered during compliance buys
- Vendor overcharging is NOT the same as charging over the NTE

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Overcharging?

- A vendor looks at the NTE to determine what they could charge the WIC customer for a gallon of whole milk. The current shelf price is \$2.79. They charge the WIC customer \$3.69 for the gallon of whole milk because that is the current NTE for the month. Is this vendor overcharging?
- A vendor charges a WIC customer \$6.50 for WIC approved cheese. The current shelf price is \$6.50. The NTE is \$6.29. Is this vendor overcharging?

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Inventory Audits

- •A vendor must make available at any reasonable time and place **ALL**:
 - Program-related records of vendor
 - Purchase records, Sales records, Bank statements, Credit card statements, or any other personal or business financial documents that pertains to their business
- **-MUST** be retained 3 years or until audit pertaining to these records is resolved, whichever is later

Purchase Documentation Requirement

- Specific requirements for purchase documentation of WIC supplemental foods
- Invoices, receipts, purchase orders, and any other proofs of purchase for WIC supplemental foods must include the following:
- The name of the seller and be prepared entirely by the seller or on the seller's business letterhead;
- The date of purchase and the date the authorized vendor received the WIC supplemental food at the store if this date is different;
- A description of each WIC supplemental food item purchased, including brand name, unit size, type or form, and auantity.



Violations Detected During Inventory Audit

- •Claiming reimbursement for the sale of an amount of a specific supplemental food item which exceeds the store's documented inventory of that supplemental food item for six or more days within the 60-day period. The six or more days do not have to be consecutive
- Inability to provide records or providing false records is also a violation



Vendor Claims

- Overpayment to a vendor as determined by an inventory audit or compliance buy investigation requires repayment to the WIC Program
- •The State WIC Agency assesses a claim against the vendor in the amount of the overpayment
- Vendors can request a conference to review the claim, but this action cannot be appealed



Claims Assessed for Vendor Violations

- If a vendor is assessed a claim, the vendor must reimburse the State WIC Agency in full or agree to a repayment plan within 30 days of written notification of the claim
- √Failure to do so will lead to termination of the Vendor Agreement
- A vendor applicant cannot be authorized if any of the vendor applicant's owners, officers or managers currently have or previously had a financial interest in a WIC Vendor that was assessed a claim by the WIC Program and the claim has not been paid in full

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Disqualification

- Ranges from 60 days to permanent
- WIC status may impact status with SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program)
- Vendor has right to appeal



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Routine Monitoring

- •Includes, but is not limited to:
- Review of formula invoices and receipts
- Price checks
- Treatment of WIC customers
- Inventory of WIC approved foods subject to minimum inventory requirement
- Ensure stand-beside equipment for use in transacting eWIC is accessible, if necessary
- Visits are documented and if violation(s) found:
- An occurrence is noted
- The vendor must take steps to correct the violations
- Will be monitored again within 21 days



Reporting Customer Service Issues (Complaints)

- Vendors should report customer service issues (complaints) to the Local WIC Agency concerning:
- WIC customer inappropriate behavior
 Vendors are not required to tolerate behavior from a WIC customer that they would not tolerate from other customers
- Complaints about other vendors
- May use form in the Vendor Manual



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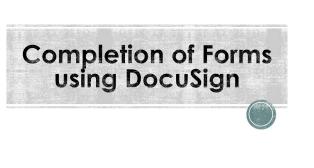
Required Applicant Forms

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Completing Required Forms

- Vendors to be authorized through corporate agreements must complete:
- Application (DHHS 3282) completed through the vendor portal
- Verification of Attendance
- All other retail stores must complete:
- Agreement (DHHS 2768) ending date 9/30/2024
- Terms of the WIC Vendor Agreement
- Application (DHHS 3282)
- Price List (DHHS 2766)
- Above Fifty-Percent Vendor Self Declaration form
- Verification of Attendance





Completing Required Forms in DocuSign

Received through DocuSign

- Vendor Agreement (DHHS 2768) ending date 9/30/2024
- •Terms of the WIC Vendor Agreement
- -Application (DHHS 3282)
- Price List (DHHS 2766)
- Above Fifty-Percent Vendor Self Declaration form

Received from Local Agency

Verification of Attendance

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Using DocuSign

- You will receive an email from the State Agency via DocuSign
- Click on the "Review Documents" button



Vendor Process

- Once you have clicked "Review Documents," this screen will open
- You will click the "Continue" button to review and complete the application documents (forms)



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Fields to Complete

• Red boxes will appear on the fields required for completion



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Adopting a Signature

- When you click on the first Sign button, the "Adopt Your Signature" screen will appear.
- Signature options

 Type your name and initials and Iype your name and initials and change the style to look more like your handwritten signature
 Draw or "write" signature by selecting the draw tab and using the mouse
 Upload a clear picture of signature for use



SIGNATURE



Once signature and initials have been adopted, when you click any space labeled sign or initial, the adopted signature will appear.

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Form Fields

- Certain fields triggered once specific fields selected.

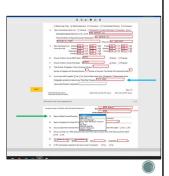
 • Blue arrow at question 13 shows
 - that the check box for Integrated has been selected

 - nas been selected

 Sub questions and corresponding
 fields have now been highlighted

 The value-added reseller is not
 highlighted in red because this is
 an optional field
- Green arrow at question 14 shows a drop-down option.
 - Ensures vendors only choose State
 - approved sources

 Also available for question 15



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Vendor Process Completed



Once you have gone through all documents and completed all required fields, you will be able to click the "Finish" button.

Final Screen

- You may see this screen upon completion
 - Can select "No Thanks"
- All parties will receive a copy of the fully completed forms



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Application (DHHS 3282)

- •All vendor applicants must complete an application
- •The store owner or officer must complete and
- Do not leave blanks, do not use "N/A"
- •Do not type "same as above"
- Complete every line!

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Application (DHHS 3282)

- Questions #1-2Store address information
- Questions #3-4
 Needed for future notifications
- Question #5
 MUST be a SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program) Provider
- Question #6
 - Provide Store's Federal Tax ID number
- Question #7 check only one!
- See instructions for definitions:
 Retail Large Chain
 Retail Independent



Application (DHHS 3282)

- Question #8 check only one!
- PartnershipLimited Partnership
- Corporation
- LLC

- Question #9

Since business hours are a selection criteria, please be accurate and indicate AM/PM

Question #10-11

Annual SNAP & Food Sales – Projected for new stores

- Question #12

- Total Number of registers in store not number in use (including U-Scans)
- Number of registers with scanning devices
 Number of scanners that identify WIC approved foods

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Application (DHHS 3282)

- Question #13
- eWIC capable (integrated cash register system)
- Question #14-15
- Infant formula source
- Food suppliers
- More than fifty percent of stores annual revenue from WIC?
- Question #18
- Percentage of business expected to be WIC, SNAP, cash, and credit/debit card (no decimals)
- Question #19
- WIC authorization required?

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Application (DHHS 3282)

- Question #20-21
- Inventory invoices
- Question #22
- Required minimum inventory
- Question #23
- Check all boxes that apply
- Question #24-25
- Manager's full name
- Indicate if manager is primary contact for the store



Application (DHHS 3282)

- •Questions #26-35
- Business integrity questions
- Do not leave any blanks
- Provide explanations and dates for "yes" responses

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Ownership Data Section

- Stores under corporate agreement do not complete this section
- Stores not under corporate agreement should list all owners/officers
- For more than TWO owners, complete page 3a
- Incorporated or Limited Liability Companies (LLC) list officers

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Page 3a

Additional ownership page

For vendors with more than 2 owners or officers



Page 4

- Read application statement
- Store Owner/Officer signs
- Check all answers before signing to avoid delay of application

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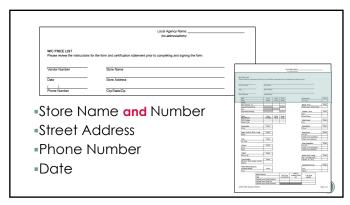
Page 5

Page 5 is signed by the Local Agency before being sent to the State WIC Agency

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WIC Price List (DHHS 2766)

- •Must be completed individually by each:
- Independent stores
- Convenience stores
- Commissaries
- Role of Price List
- A criteria for selecting authorized vendors



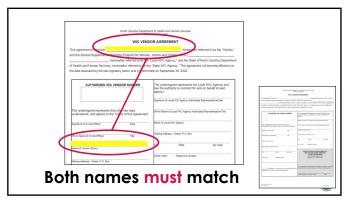
Required Prices

- Whole **and** skim/low fat milk (gallon)
- •Cheese (16oz.)
- •Two types of cereal whole grain
- Eggs (large white)
- Juice, 48 oz. container
- Juice, 64 oz. container
- Dry beans, peas & lentils
- Peanut butter
- Tuna

- Rice
- Bread and/or Tortillas
- Infant cereal
- Infant formula
 - Milk-based and Soy-based
 - Powder
- Infant Fruits
- Infant Vegetables

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ID Requirement

The State WIC Agency requires that vendor applicants submit a copy of their driver's license or state issued ID with their application.

Technical Assistance

- Local WIC agency is the primary contact for technical assistance regarding:
- WIC-approved foods
- Completing required forms
- eWIC transaction issues
- Triage form to be completed (refer to Vendor Manual)
- Customer service issues (complaints)

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Training Employees

- Vendor owners/managers are responsible for training all cashiers on WIC as it pertains to the following:
- WIC-approved foods
- •WIC Vendor Transaction Guides
- Allowing same courtesies to WIC customers as non-WIC customers
- Processing eWIC transactions

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Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance

The vendor hereby agrees that it will comply with Tifle VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); Tifle IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 749); the Age Discrimination Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 749); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (22 U.S.C. 610) et seq.); Tifle II and Itilie III of the Americans with Dissobilities Act (ADA) of 1990, os amended by the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (24 U.S.C. 12131-12189) and as implemented by Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Parts 35 and 36; Decuritive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Service Ior Phase or the Service of Parts 15 and 15 the Education of 1975 (1975) (1

necessary to effectuate this agreement.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal financial assistance, grants, and loans of Federal property and interest in property. The detail of Federal personnel, the sole and all case of, and the permission to use Federal property and interest in property. The detail of Federal personnel, the sole and lease of, and the permission to use Federal content of the property of the prope

This assurance is binding on the vendor, its successors, transferees, and assignees as long as if receives assistance or retains possession of any assistance from the Department. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on the behalf of the vendor.



USDA Nondiscrimination	Statement
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or	
Program Information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at	tate or local agency that administers the program or USDA's
To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complaine a Form AID-3027, USDA Program at	

Thank you!