

### 2.0 Certification/Eligibility

Effective Date: 6/1/09

### 2.11 Foster Child Eligibility

**PURPOSE:** To ensure that foster children at nutritional risk receive WIC Program benefits.

#### A. POLICY

1. A foster child shall be considered a one person family where the Department of Human Services (DHS) is legally responsible for the child and the foster home is an extension of DHS.
2. Payments made by DHS or from any other source for the care of the foster child shall be considered the income for the child.
3. If the client has entered foster care within the last six months or has moved from one foster care home to another foster care home in the previous six months the client shall qualify for Foster Care risk code (See Policy 2.13 Nutritional Risk Criteria). A complete nutritional risk assessment shall be done at certification to determine other health, nutrition or referral needs.
4. When custody has changed and previously issued benefits are no longer available for the foster child, replacement benefits shall be given to the family with whom the child resides (See Policy 8.05 Replacement of Food Benefits).
5. If the foster child is later adopted, the child's WIC eligibility shall change and then be based on the income of the adoptive family. If the child retains Medicaid after adoption, he/she would continue to be adjunctively eligible.

#### B. GUIDANCE

1. When benefits are replaced for a foster child for a change in custody, the benefits may be added to the foster family's Michigan WIC Bridge Card or a separate Michigan WIC Bridge Card may be issued that contains only the benefits for the foster child.

#### References:

CFR 246.7

#### Cross-references:

- 2.06 Adjunct Income Eligibility
- 2.13 Nutritional Risk Criteria
- 8.05 Replacement of Food Benefits