



Michigan WIC Vendor News

Store Owners, Managers, and Cashiers – PLEASE READ

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Application Period for Southeast Cycle Contracts

The current contracts with WIC authorized vendors in the SOUTHEAST part of the state will expire on June 30, 2014. **The new application period for WIC vendors in these counties is January 1, 2014 through February 14, 2014.**

Below is the list of SOUTHEAST counties affected:

| | |
|---------|------------|
| LENAWEE | LIVINGSTON |
| MACOMB | MONROE |
| OAKLAND | WASHTENAW |
| WAYNE | |

During the application period all currently contracted vendors in these counties, who are interested in WIC authorization for the contract period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017, **MUST** submit a WIC Vendor Application for a new contract. **An application, along with instructions, will soon be mailed to each currently contracted WIC vendor.**

(continued in next column)

Neither the Michigan Department of Community Health nor WIC vendors have an obligation to renew a WIC contract. **Expiration of the contract is not subject to appeal.**

All applications sent by vendors in these counties and received by February 14 will be processed accordingly. ***All applicants will be notified of a decision regarding their application, no earlier than May 2014.***

Approved vendors in these counties will receive a three year contract valid from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

NOTE: Individual WIC chain outlets are not required to submit an application, however, some chain outlets will be required to submit price and stock information. If your store has its own contract, you are NOT a chain outlet.

Vendors who were placed on the “waiting list” in these counties will be notified of the application period. If interested in seeking WIC authorization, these vendors must submit a written request for an application.

In addition, any other vendors in these counties that are not currently on WIC, and wish to be considered for WIC authorization, may also apply from January 1, 2014 through February 14, 2014 by sending a written request for an application to:

Michigan Department of Community Health
WIC Program/Vendor Management
320 S Walnut
Lansing MI 48913
Or Fax to: (517) 335-9514

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WIC WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.michigan.gov/wic

Change of Ownership During Application Period

For the SOUTHEAST region (See Page 1 for a list of the affected counties), changes of ownership that occur **prior to May 31, 2014**, as evidenced by a final bill of sale, will be processed normally.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are a currently authorized WIC vendor and are considering selling your store during the application period, **it is important that you still submit a renewal application by the regular deadline of February 14, 2014.** If a renewal application is not received from the current WIC authorized vendor by the February 14 deadline, the new owner is not guaranteed consideration under the change of ownership policy.

If a change of ownership occurs between May 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, the new owner of a currently WIC authorized store **will not be considered for authorization** under the change of ownership policy. The new owner may still submit a request for an application for WIC authorization. Upon receipt, the application will be placed on a waiting list for consideration as a *new applicant* after July 1, 2014.

If you have questions about the change of ownership policy, contact the WIC office at (517) 335-8937.

Central Cycle Contracts Delayed

Due to an unusually high number of applicants and unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay in the awarding of WIC contracts for some vendors in the CENTRAL region. (See the list of Central counties in the next column.) The WIC program is diligently working to complete this process as soon as possible.

Vendors who will be awarded contracts for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 will be notified in writing of their renewal status. Those vendors who are currently authorized are allowed to continue accepting WIC under a limited grant of authority until new contracts are issued.

Vendors not selected to receive a new 3-year contract will also be notified in writing and placed on a waiting list for future consideration.

WIC Vendor Training Sessions

The WIC program will soon be scheduling group training sessions with WIC authorized vendors in the CENTRAL part of the state. Below is a list of Central counties that will be notified of training in their area over the next several months.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| ALLEGAN | GRATIOT | MONTCALM |
| BARRY | HILLSDALE | MUSKEGON |
| BAY | HURON | OTTAWA |
| BERRIEN | INGHAM | SAGINAW |
| BRANCH | IONIA | SANILAC |
| CALHOUN | JACKSON | SHIAWASSEE |
| CASS | KALAMAZOO | ST CLAIR |
| CLINTON | KENT | ST JOSEPH |
| EATON | LAPEER | TUSCOLA |
| GENESEE | MIDLAND | VAN BUREN |

Training notifications will be mailed to you with the date, time, and location of the group training in your area. **At least one representative from each store is REQUIRED to attend, per the terms of the WIC vendor contract.** This includes independent vendors, AND chain outlets.

If you miss your scheduled training, contact our office immediately to find out if there is another training session scheduled for your area that you may attend.

Correction to WIC Approved Bread

The WIC Food Guide incorrectly pictured Pepperidge Farm Jewish Rye Whole Grain Rye Seeded with a red banner that only says "Seeded." This package is not WIC approved and will not scan. **The correct WIC approved package is labeled with a green banner that says "Whole Grain Rye Seeded".**



UPC Scanning Violations a Big Problem!

The WIC Program is finding that some vendors are scanning one UPC code and then allowing a different product, which may or may not be WIC approved, to be sold to the WIC customer.

Per the WIC Vendor Contract, you are required to scan the UPC of each item a WIC customer purchases. **Allowing the WIC customer to leave the store with an item that was not scanned is a serious violation which can result in termination and a 3 year disqualification from the WIC Program, as well as termination and disqualification from SNAP (Food Stamps).**

This past year the WIC Program has taken termination and disqualification action against 11 vendors for violating this requirement. We are in the process of preparing to take similar action against several other vendors for the same violation.

If such a violation is found to be occurring in a store, there is typically no warning issued to the store. Instead, per the WIC Vendor Sanction Policy, a termination and disqualification notice is usually sent to the store as soon as three separate incidents of the violation are documented.

As a reminder, it is okay to scan one UPC when selling multiple identical items, as identified by UPC. For example, you could enter a Quantity of 2 and then scan the UPC for powder Enfamil Premium once. However, it would be a violation if you enter a Quantity of 2 and scan the UPC for powder Enfamil Premium, or scan that UPC twice but actually give the customer one can of Enfamil Premium and a different item, regardless of whether the replacement item is WIC approved or not.

Vendors . . . remember that **WIC clients are issued specific food benefits for health reasons.** You must sell **ONLY** the types of foods that you are able to scan based on what is assigned to the client's WIC EBT card. Please always keep the purpose of the WIC Program in mind, which is to *improve the health of women, infants, and children enrolled in the program.*



WIC Shelf Talkers

Did you know that placing a "WIC Authorized Food" shelf talker under a non-WIC item is a contract violation punishable by a sanction of 5 points? (See the WIC Vendor Sanction Policy, Page 2, Item #3.)

Because of the many recent changes to the list of WIC authorized foods, **it is important that you remove any WIC shelf talkers from beneath foods that were previously allowed for WIC, but have since been removed from the authorized list.** This includes 8 oz. cheese, 46 oz. canned juices, certain brands of cold cereal in box sizes less than 16 oz., Honey Kix, Jif peanut butter, etc. Refer to the current WIC Food Guide (effective October 15, 2013) for the complete listing of currently authorized foods.

W-9 Information

Xerox has identified some vendor records with tax identification numbers (TIN's) that do not match information on file with the IRS. Xerox has sent notification to these vendors instructing them to submit a new W9 to Xerox. *For vendors whose TIN on file with Xerox does not match the TIN on file with the IRS, it is possible for the IRS to begin withholding action against the vendor in February or March if this discrepancy is not resolved by then.*

If you have received such a notice from Xerox, you should respond immediately to resolve this matter. If you have not received such a notice from Xerox, you can disregard this issue. If you are not sure if you received this notice or if you have questions related to the Xerox Tax ID requirement, you may call 1-866-528-1127 between 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

2013 Tax Withholding

If you had taxes withheld by Xerox in 2013 due to TIN discrepancies with the IRS, those withholding taxes have already been sent to the IRS. For information regarding recovery of those withheld funds, you should consult your tax preparer. The WIC Program cannot provide any guidance regarding the recovery of funds already paid to the IRS.

Summary of Recent WIC Approved Food Changes

Juice

Added as WIC approved:

- Any 64 oz. store brand fruit or vegetable juice that contains 100% juice and 120% Vitamin C
- Dole frozen concentrate (any flavor)

No longer WIC approved:

- Juice in 46 oz. cans and 46 oz. plastic containers
- 64 oz. Everfresh Paradise Fruit Punch
- Non-frozen concentrate Juicy Juice

Peanut Butter

Only store brand peanut butter in 16-18 oz. jars are WIC approved. Please see the Vendor/Grocer link at www.michigan.gov/wic for a listing of WIC approved peanut butter brands.

Cold Cereals

Added as WIC approved in package sizes larger than 16 oz.:

- General Mills Dora the Explorer (new)
- Kellogg's Scooby-Doo (new)
- Post Honey Bunch of Oats: Fruit Blends Banana Blueberry, Fruit Blends Peach Raspberry, Tropical Blends Mango Coconut (new)
- Malt-O-Meal Crispy Rice, Mini-Spooners Blueberry, Oat Blenders Honey, Oat Blenders Honey & Almonds (new)

Added as WIC approved in package sizes larger than 12 oz.:

- Quaker Oatmeal Squares Honey Nut and Golden Maple (new)
- Store Brands: Centrella (new), Essential Everyday (previously Flavorite), Kiggins (previously Mornin' Gems and Toasted Rollin' Oats)

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Cereals no longer WIC approved in any size:

- King Vitamin
- Honey Kix
- Malt-O-Meal Chocolatey Frosted Mini Spooners

Cereals no longer WIC approved in package sizes less than 16 oz.:

- Cheerios: Plain 14 oz., Multi-Grain 12.8 oz.
- Corn Flakes 12 oz.
- Honey Bunches of Oats: Almond, Honey Roasted, Cinnamon Bunches 14.5 oz.
- Kix: Plain and Honey 12 oz.
- Life Original 13 oz. and 15 oz.
- Mini-Spooners: Frosted 12/13 oz. and Strawberry 12 oz.
- Special K: Original 12 oz.



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