



Vendor News

For Store Owners, Managers, and Cashiers

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JUNE 2014

Update: Application Period for Southeast Cycle Contracts

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Current contracts with WIC authorized vendors in the SOUTHEAST part of the state will expire on June 30, 2014. Counties affected are *Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne.*

Applications for vendors in the southeast cycle were due February 14, 2014. All timely applications are currently being reviewed for accuracy and completeness. If an application is missing information or

requires clarification, it will be returned to the vendor for appropriate action.

Due to a delay in the application review process, currently authorized vendors who are being considered for a new contract will be allowed to continue to accept WIC transactions beyond the June 30, 2014 expiration date under a limited grant of authority.

Upon completion of the application review process, all applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome.



Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC/WIC)

The Michigan WIC Program, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education, has received a USDA grant to continue an alternative to the Summer Food Service Program for children.

Through this grant, some of the school age children that are eligible for free or reduced price school meals in the Detroit Public Schools will be provided nutritious foods this summer through the use of the WIC Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) Bridge card.

The project begins on June 13, 2014 and continues through September 1, 2014.

Note that even though this program is targeted for eligible school children in the Detroit Public Schools only, it is possible for these participants to use their SEBTC summer food benefits anywhere in the state.

A separate mailing with additional information about the program, plus an allowed food guide, was mailed to all Michigan WIC authorized vendors on May 19, 2014.

For SEBTC program help:

Call: 1-888-265-3291

E-mail: sebtc.mi@gmail.com

Visit: www.sebtc-mi-com



WIC Program Integrity

In its continued efforts to contain costs and prevent fraud and abuse, the WIC Program recently terminated and disqualified the following vendors from the WIC Program due to violating WIC Program policies and procedures:

Mr. Liquor	Detroit	Park & Save Market	Hamtramck
Piper Liquor Shoppe	Detroit	Islamic Town Center	Dearborn
Woodmere Party Store	Detroit	Community Market	Muskegon
F & M Market	Detroit	Kegger's Party Shoppe	Romulus
Maryland Liquor Shoppe	Detroit	R J's Party Stop	Romulus

Among the violations on which many termination actions are based, the most frequent include **failure to properly maintain purchase and inventory records** as required in Section IV of your WIC Vendor Contract. A termination action based on this requirement may also result in a claim against the vendor by the WIC Program to recoup unsubstantiated payments made to the vendor.

Another common violation is **failure to follow UPC scanning procedures** listed in Section III #7 of the WIC Vendor Contract. Failure to follow proper UPC scanning procedures is subject to sanctioning based on Section C #2 of the Vendor Sanction Policy – *“Charging the WIC Program for food (by UPC code) not received by the client.”*

In accordance with Federal Regulations and the Vendor Sanction Policy, three documented instances of this violation requires termination of the WIC Vendor Contract and a 3 year disqualification. As this is a mandatory Federal sanction, the Michigan WIC Program has no discretion regarding application of this sanction for this violation.

Also, the vendor may be terminated and disqualified from WIC based on SNAP (Food Stamps) termination and disqualification. The following WIC vendors were disqualified from the WIC Program as a result of being terminated and disqualified from SNAP for fraud:

Brothers Supermarket	Dearborn	S & H Petromart	Detroit
Twins Party Store	Detroit	Barakah Grocery	Detroit



Milk Changes Coming in October 2014

Due to recent USDA food benefit changes, reduced fat 2% milk benefits will only be available to WIC clients with documented nutritional necessity. **Beginning on October 1, 2014, the standard milk benefit for children ages 2 and older and women will be nonfat (fat-free) and low-fat (1% and ½%) milk.**

You are being made aware of this change in advance so that you can make any necessary

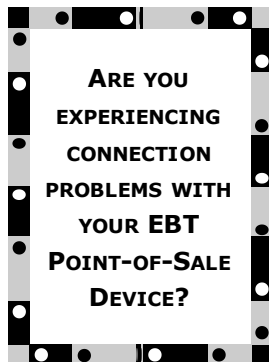
adjustments with your milk supplier(s). *Beginning October 1, reduced fat 2% milk will be allowed for WIC clients with only the 2% milk listed on their shopping list.* WIC clients are able to check their available milk option through a benefits balance inquiry at your store.

This change will also impact WIC minimum stock requirements.

Additional details will be provided in the September newsletter.



Connection Problems with the EBT Point-of-Sale Device



Before you call the Xerox Help Desk for assistance, verify that your internet or phone connection is functioning properly.

Troubleshooting your internet connection is not the responsibility of Xerox, and you may be charged for a service call if it is determined that your connection problem is related to your internet service provider or telephone company.

Xerox Help Desk Tickets

When you contact the Xerox Retailer Help Desk for assistance, you will be issued a ticket number to track the problem you reported. If you call Xerox later for a status update, **please provide the Customer Service Operator with your original ticket number to avoid being issued another ticket number.** Also, make sure you have your WIC vendor number handy when you call, as you may be asked for this information. Your WIC vendor number can be found on the upper right hand corner of your WIC Vendor Contract.

Xerox Retailer Help Desk

1-888-529-1693



MICHIGAN WIC PROGRAM

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WIC Program, Lewis Cass Bldg., 6th Floor
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Lansing Michigan 48913

Phone: 517-335-8937
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We are on the Web!
www.michigan.gov/wic

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Beech-Nut 100% Natural 4.25 oz. Glass Jar Infant Food NOT WIC Approved

It has come to our attention that the Beech-Nut Nutrition Company has produced new 4.25 oz. glass jar products of infant fruits and vegetables. These new products, identified as "Beech-Nut 100% Natural" will not scan as WIC approved items.

As a reminder, only 4 oz. glass jars and 4 oz. two-pack plastic tubs are WIC approved. However, only the 4 oz. glass jars count towards the WIC minimum stock requirement of 72 jars total of at least one variety of single or mixed fruit AND one variety of single or mixed vegetable.



NOT WIC APPROVED