



# VENDOR NEWS

Your source for State of Alaska WIC program news related to vendor management. In this newsletter you will find important and useful information affecting vendor agreements with the WIC program. *Enjoy!*

October 2016 — Volume 16, Issue 1

## Vendor Teleconference

Rural and small stores  
**Monday, October 24th**  
 10:00am AKST

Urban and large stores  
**Wednesday, October 26th**  
 10:00am AKST

**Call: 1-800-281-5354**  
**Passcode: 646725**

Please join the call that best fits your store. If your store is unable to attend your designated call, please join the other.

October 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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30	31					

## October 2016 Price Survey

Your October 2016 Price Survey is due Friday, October 21, 2016. Please email your Excel spreadsheet to [wic@alaska.gov](mailto:wic@alaska.gov). We suggest that you submit your price survey as soon as possible to allow time for corrections if needed. The price survey requires you to provide a price and brand for your highest priced WIC approved item for each food listed. Electronic submission exemption forms must be submitted and approved no later than October 12th.

## eWIC Update

Banking and quality assurance contractors have been selected for Alaska's transition to eWIC. Our staff are preparing to catalog the UPC codes for all foods that are eligible to be purchased with WIC benefits in Alaska. Planning for this major program change will gain momentum in the final months of this year. Look for an announcement of a Vendor Advisory Committee meeting after January 1 – If you wish to have representation on the committee, contact Erin Khmelev at [erin.khmelev@alaska.gov](mailto:erin.khmelev@alaska.gov), or 907/465-3100.

## WIC Food Changes

The Alaska WIC program has made the following changes:

**Dried beans** have been removed from the minimum stocking requirements for all peer groups. Participants may still purchase dried beans if they are listed on their check.

**Infant fruits and vegetable** checks have been changed to read "16 4 OZ. JARS INFANT FRUITS/VEGETABLES—FOR BANANA SEE FOOD LIST" One 2-pack of 4 oz. containers is equal to two 4 oz. jars. Participants may purchase bananas instead of some of the jarred food. Cashiers should use the banana table in the WIC food list to calculate how many bananas are allowed in combination with infant food.

## Health and Social Services

Alaska WIC Program  
Div. of Public  
Assistance  
P.O. Box 110612  
Juneau, AK 99811

Phone: 907-465-3100  
Fax: 907-465-3416  
E-mail: [wic@alaska.gov](mailto:wic@alaska.gov)



**NO Rain  
Checks Allowed**

### Contacting the WIC Vendor Unit

The Vendor Unit will provide assistance to vendors at any time. For questions or complaints, please contact us and we will do our best to meet your needs.

**Sandy Harbanuk**  
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907/465-4704

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Vendor Management Assistant  
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Vendor Management Assistant  
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907/465-6399

## Vendor Question

If a WIC check says "INFANT FRUIT/VEG" can a shopper purchase baby food in a squeezable pouch?

**Answer:** No. Stage 2 and 2 1/2 Gerber, Beech-Nut, and Beech-Nut Naturals in 4 oz. or 4 oz. 2-packs are the only WIC allowed infant fruits and vegetables. Infant fruits and vegetables must be single ingredient or combinations of single fruit and/or vegetable ingredients. For example: pears, peaches, strawberry-banana, squash, sweet potatoes & apples, garden vegetables, etc. Participants can purchase any combination that adds up to 64 oz. which is (16) 4 oz. jars or (8) 2-packs.

Not Allowed:

- Organic
- Additives such as DHA/ARA
- Guava, mango, or papaya varieties
- Mixtures with rice, milk, or cereal

## Vendor Agreements

It has now been one year since all authorized vendors signed their 2015 – 2018 WIC Vendor Agreements. This is a great time to review your agreement to make sure you're in compliance with program rules and requirements. We value your participation in the program!

### Managers

Please post this newsletter  
for your staff to read

**IF YOU FIND LOST CHECKS:** Please notify your local WIC agency or the State Office immediately at (907) 465-3100 so the checks can be returned to the participant.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Go to [http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/Admin/Forms/nondiscrimination\\_statement.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/Admin/Forms/nondiscrimination_statement.pdf) for the full Non-Discrimination Statement.

