

Spring Is Here!

Hello Vendors,

Spring is upon us and, much like the flowers, many things are sprouting!

With your help, The State of Alaska WIC has added **even more** products to our Approved Products List (APL)! You can view the current list on our website, here:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/approved-foods.aspx>

Thank you to all who have submitted requests on behalf of your store and your customers!

Also to note, in early 2023 The Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service announced proposed changes to allow online ordering for WIC. Although this change is not yet set in stone, it will be a great opportunity to reach our rural Alaskans!

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/online-ordering-transaction-proposed-rule-gas>

Produce Mapping

Spring is a great time of year to prepare for the upcoming summer months and refresh your produce mapping!



Who: WIC vendors using an integrated point of sale system (POS) are required to maintain produce mapping.

What: Mapping is the process of linking a UPC or barcode number to the nearest international PLU.

Where: The UPC typically consists of 12 digits and can be found on the product:



1% Darigold Milk

When: The season for new and fresh produce is coming. Now is the best time to prepare!

Why?: If your store creates a UPC for cut watermelon, the UPC must be linked in your system to a PLU that best matches the product. For packages of mixed produce, please use the PLU that best matches the dominant type of produce included. Please contact your POS provider if you need mapping assistance. POS system updates may require prior testing and approval by the WIC office or its contractors. Please reach out to the State WIC Office for questions.

No Substitutions Allowed

Items sold must match UPCs scanned and PLUs entered. Receiving reimbursement for foods not provided to the WIC shopper is considered fraud of a federal assistance program.

Need Training?

It helps all new employees to learn about eWIC! It also helps to know where to point customers when they are confused about how to make a WIC purchase.

For your convenience, an eWIC Training video for shoppers can be found here:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/eWIC.aspx>



REMINDER: eWIC cards must be present for all WIC transactions and the Personal Identification Number (PIN) should only be entered by the customer!

½ Gallon Milk Substitutions

It has been over a year since the Darigold shrinkflation from 64oz (true half gallon) to 59oz. This has made all Darigold 59oz sizes **non-WIC approved**. While many stores have found work arounds, the WIC Vendor Unit has one final solution:

Stores can purchase 32oz (quart) sizes of Darigold Fresh Liquid milk and coach WIC participants on purchasing two 32oz sizes to get their 64oz benefit amount.

Approved Quart-size Darigold Product UPCs:



2%: 026400276005 Whole: 026400290001



Fat Free: 026400297000 1%: 026400298908



Buttermilk: 026400410355

If your stores have other milks not approved, please send the following information to doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov:

- Image of the UPC / Barcode (12-digits)
- Brand Name
- Food/Product Name

- Package Size
- Container Type
- Image of product label including ingredient list and nutrition facts panel. If images are unclear or unavailable, a complete list of ingredients is required.

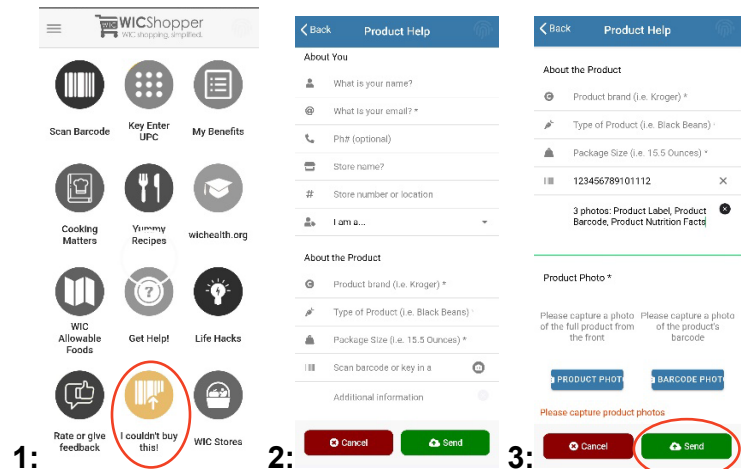
You may also submit products to be considered on our Approved Products List by using our WIC Shopper App! Here's how:

Step 1: Download the WIC Shopper App (no account needed!)

Step 2: Select "I couldn't buy this"- enter your store- and fill out the product form.

Step 3: Take 2-3 pictures of the product label, barcode, and nutrition facts

Step 4: SEND!



Contact Us

Contact The WIC State Office at **(907) 465-3100** when:

- There is a question about a WIC rule/procedure.
- There is a complaint about a participant.

WIC Office Email: doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov

Vacant-Vendor Coordinator
Vacant-Vendor Project Assistant

Sarah Slater
Acting Vendor Coordinator
(907) 500-2721