

Hello Staff!

This newsletter will keep you informed about key updates, changes, reminders, and deadlines related to the Alaska Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out using the contact information provided at the end of this newsletter.

Please be aware that our department is currently undergoing a system-wide website freeze as we work to enhance the site for better navigation and user experience. In the meantime, be sure to monitor your store's email inbox for important updates, such as the latest Approved Product List (APL) information. We appreciate your patience as we work through this transition!

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,
Your WIC Vendor Management Unit

APL Additions

We've expanded our list of approved foods to allow the following products!



- Lindsey's Gold Eggs- 12 count:
 - 860001902150 Medium AA
 - 860002174471 Large AA
 - 860006243494 Large Brown
 - 860007879302 Medium A
 - 860007879340 Large Grade A
 - 860008876256 Medium Brown
- Milk- Darigold is **BACK** with their 64oz **TRUE** half gallon sizes starting **December 15th**:
 - 026400289616 2% MILK 0.5 GAL
 - 026400296010 FF MILK 0.5 GAL
 - 026400298717 1% MILK 0.5 GAL

026400405207
026400405214
026400440406

LACT FREE 2% MILK 0.5 GAL
LACT FREE FF MILK 0.5 GAL
LACT FREE 1% MILK 0.5 GAL

- 8oz Cheese:

011110586261 Kroger Medium Cheddar 8oz
021130043170 Lucerne Mozzarella 8oz
021130046034 Lucerne Sharp Cheddar Slices 8 oz
021130047628 Lucerne Sharp Cheddar 8 oz
021130048892 Lucerne Swiss 8 oz.

If you'd like to see if a product is WIC approved, please see the latest APL list sent to your store's email **OR** download the WIC Shopper app on your smart device. The WIC Shopper app is available for **free** to the public and you do not need to be a WIC participant to use it:



Annual Training

As we approach the end of 2024, keep in mind the annual WIC Vendor training will be coming up in January 2025.

The annual training is a great opportunity for vendors across Alaska to refresh their WIC knowledge and to get the information they need to best provide for WIC participants across the state.

All vendors must have a representative attend the training that can disseminate information to the store staff to ensure training occurs across the board.

While there are multiple dates for the training, WIC vendors only need to attend one of the trainings.

Attendance is mandatory and failure to attend may result in penalty points being applied.



UPCs Still not ringing through??

1. **Please make sure your Point of Sale (POS) system is updated with the latest APL.** If you have an integrated POS, contact your POS service provider if you experience issues. For stand-beside devices, reach out to our office for support.
2. **Double-check the ounce sizes!** Verify a participant's benefit balance to ensure it matches the correct ounce size for their benefits.
3. **Please remind participants that the WIC Program does not offer refunds** and to call their local WIC Agency with any questions or concerns.



With our stores working hard to provide the best in service and items to WIC participants, it is important to remember that **substitutions to the APL are not allowed.** The items on the APL are set by WIC dietitians after a review process that ensures that the approved items are suitable for WIC standards and can have the best impact for our participants.

If participants have concerns about items missing from the approved product list, they are welcome to contact their local agency or to use the WIC Shopper app to submit new items for review.

New Food Rule Implementation 2025

The 2024 WIC food package updates increase monthly fruit and vegetable benefits—\$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum women, and \$52 for breastfeeding women. New options include quinoa, wild rice, teff, canned fish, and plant-based alternatives. Inventory may need to expand to include more whole grains, canned fish, fresh herbs, and plant-based items. With the increase in produce benefits, vendors should expect higher demand for fruits and vegetables. Staff will require training on the new eligibility rules and compliance requirements.

The Alaska State WIC office will provide training, sourcing guidance, updated materials, and compliance support to help vendors adjust smoothly.

Contact Us

Please WELCOME our newest Vendor Assistant!

A'isha Jackson-Vendor Assistant/SFMNP
(907) 419-4164

Sarah Slater- Vendor Coordinator
(907) 500-2721

WIC Vendor Website:
<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/vendors/default.aspx>

State of Alaska WIC:
(907) 465-3100 option #2 for WIC