

Hello Staff!

We hope you are enjoying the summer months and are enjoying all that Alaska has to offer. Please use this newsletter to stay up to date on improvements, changes, reminders, and deadlines for the Alaska Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact us using the information at the end of this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Your WIC Vendor Management Unit

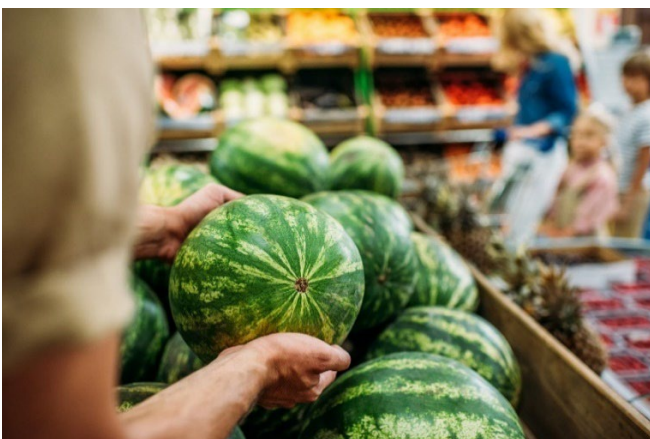
Produce Mapping

For stores using an integrated cash register system please make sure all produce barcodes/UPCs in your store are “mapped” in your register system.

It is important to “map” UPCs to an internationally recognized Product Lookup Code (PLU). If you do not map produce items, then the product is likely going to be denied when WIC shoppers try to buy it with their WIC benefits.

Technical assistance and questions should be directed to your Store Manager or Point of Sale provider.

**It’s summer and produce are in abundance.
Make sure it’s all mapped!**



Remember to Renew Your WIC Authorization!

Current WIC authorizations end on September 30, 2024. In May, we mailed a WIC authorization renewal packet to all vendors. In order to be reauthorized for WIC for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027, we must receive a complete application from you by September 1.

Thank you to all vendors who have already submitted your application!

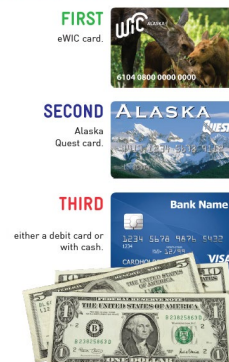
Vendor Agreements will be mailed to all stores who have submitted a complete application – please sign and return to the WIC office before September 15th. Make sure to read the agreement thoroughly, and take note of the provisions for eWIC, and changes to the Penalties and Sanctions table. Vendor Agreements must be signed by the store owner or a corporate officer if the store is owned by a tribal organization or a corporation such as an LLC.

Any vendor who has not been reauthorized by October 1, 2024, will be terminated on that date and will no longer be able to run WIC transactions. The vendor will have to reapply.

BOGO/ Coupons

If your store honors or offers a “Buy One Get One free”, the first item should be charged to the WIC benefits and the shopper should get the second item free. Be sure to run coupons first, then the customer’s eWIC card.

ORDER OF PAYMENT



No Substitutions Allowed

Items provided to shoppers **must** match the barcode, Universal Product Codes (UPCs), or Product Lookup Codes (PLUs) entered/scanned at the cash register. Receiving reimbursement for foods not provided to the WIC shopper is considered fraud of a federal assistance program and will be reported. Additional penalties may include termination, disqualification, civil money penalties, and criminal prosecution.

APL Additions

We've expanded our list of approved foods to allow for more products. This may require that you manually download our APL on your stand beside device OR with your Point of Sale service provider.

If you wish to see more products added to our approved list, please keep in mind that individual products still need to be reviewed for approval by our nutritionists.

If you'd like to see if a product is WIC approved, please either find the UPC on our Approved Products List (APL) posted online or download the WICShopper app on your smart device. The WICShopper app is available for **free** to the public and you do not need to be a WIC participant to use it.

Vendor Agreement

Vendor Handbook, page 14: REAUTHORIZATION Per federal regulations, vendors may not be authorized with any State WIC Program for longer than three (3) years. Every three (3) years, the Program sends out new applications for its authorized vendors to complete. Vendors who want to remain authorized with the Program must complete a new application. The Program also requires that vendors attend an interactive training session during reauthorization years. Authorization cycles begin on October 1st and end the following September 30th.

Our team would like to remind all of our authorized WIC grocery stores of a couple important terms in your Vendor Agreement.

Vendor Agreement 1.5.3 and 1.5.5: Your WIC Vendor Agreement may be terminated for not receiving reimbursement for WIC foods over a period of 60 days and if the store no longer meets the program's selection and limiting criteria.

Vendor Agreement 3.2.15: WIC foods can only be purchased from wholesale or other non-retail suppliers. No WIC foods may be purchased from other retail stores for resale to WIC customers.

Vendor Agreement 3.2.20: Inventory records and invoices must be machine dated. No handwritten or hand-dated receipts will be accepted.

Contact Us

Please WELCOME our newest Vendor Assistant!

Beth Seitz

Vendor Management Assistant
(907) 500-8634

We are happy you are here!

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

Phone:

(907) 465-3100 option #2 for WIC

Email:

doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov