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Hello Vendors! Spring snuck up on us and Summer is approaching! Along with it comes awareness of trending technologies that are designed to make WIC shopping easier and more streamlined for our clients and respective stores.

## "WIC Shopper" App

### USING ALASKA'S WIC'S MOBILE APP IN YOUR STORE

#### **USE THE APP TO:**

Scan foods using **Scan Barcode** to verify WIC allowed foods.

Easy access to the most current Alaska **WIC Allowable Food** list. Quickly answer customer questions about allowable foods.

Send Product Names, images, and UPC information to the state using the **I Couldn't Buy This** feature.

#### HOW TO INSTALL THE APP:

Download WICShopper from your app store. \*And be sure to select Alaska.





### OR scan this QR code:





## **APL Additions**

How to get NEW WIC items reviewed to be on the APL:

If the store receives a new produce that appears to be WIC-approved but does not show up as WIC-eligible, Please email <u>doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov</u> and **include the following:** 

- Picture of the product label
- Picture of the full 12-digit UPC and barcode:



• Picture of the Nutrition Facts

## You may also use our WIC Shopper App to submit products!

When scanning an unapproved item, select "I Couldn't Buy This!" to submit photos of the product label, barcode, and nutrition facts.

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#### June 2025

## **RECALL Awareness!**

Please remain vigilant by monitoring all food product recalls. We strongly encourage you to sign up for updates through the following reliable sources:

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- FoodSafety.gov
- Email or text alerts from FDA or FSIS

Staying informed helps protect the health and safety of WIC participants and your broader customer base.

## There are currently no active outbreaks involving WIC-approved products.

However, please be aware of the following recent outbreak:

## Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Eggs (June 2025)

Do not eat, sell, or serve **recalled chicken eggs distributed by August Egg Company**. The FDA's investigation is ongoing.

## **Zero Substitutions**

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 can be reported. Additional penalties may include termination, disqualification, civil money penalties, and criminal prosecution. \*Note that manually keyed entries are flagged in our system to assist in detecting fraudulent activity. Please also refrain from entering card numbers by hand at either your standbeside or integrated system.

## Management: Remember to check your Store's email for State of Alaska—WIC Vendor updates!!!

As outlined in the WIC Vendor Agreement, it's important to regularly check for communications from the State of Alaska WIC Vendor team. It is also the Vendor's responsibility to notify us of any updates or changes in store contact information. Thank you for doing your part to support strong, timely communication. We appreciate it!

## **Contact Us**

VACANT Vendor Management Project Assistant

> Aisha Jackson FMNP Project Assistant (907) 419-4164

Sarah Slater Vendor Unit Manager/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

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of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)