

WINTER 2011 EDITION



WIC'r Basket

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Public Health, Office of Nutrition Services

The Vendor Newsletter of the West Virginia WIC Program

Annual Training

The West Virginia WIC Program is mandated by federal regulation to provide annual training to all WIC Approved Vendors annually. To meet this goal, WIC has posted a training presentation on our website www.ons.wvdhhr.org. A roster and questionnaire form accompanies the training presentation. This form must be completed and returned to the Vendor Management Unit by February 1, 2012, in order to receive credit for the required annual training. If your store does not have internet access, a CD or a booklet of the presentation is available by contacting the Vendor Management Unit. Regardless if your store recently attended a training session, annual training is mandatory and must be completed to avoid sanction points. A separate notice was sent to each WIC Approved Vendor on December 1, 2011, with instructions on how to complete the annual training requirements. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

Electronic Benefit Transfer System (EBT)

The West Virginia WIC Program recently notified you of plans to start using electronic benefit transfer system (EBT) for WIC redemptions by the fall of 2012 with statewide implementations by early 2013. WIC has contracted with Fidelity Information Services (FIS) and Custom Data Processing (CDP) to begin developing the EBT system.

The EBT system will allow WIC participants to purchase authorized WIC foods using an electronic card, similar to a debit card. The fundamental technologies for operating this EBT system will include online magnetic stripe card technology and real time integrated technology. WIC retailers who are operating with EBT only Point of Sale (POS) devices provided for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) transactions will have the option to be issued replacement equipment programmed for processing both SNAP and WIC transactions or choosing an integrated system provider. The first step in EBT-WIC development is to determine the existing type of devices currently being used at your store so that a system can be built maximizing use of existing case register/POS devices.

New Infant Fruits & Vegetables

Hero/Beech Nut Nutrition Corporation recently introduced a new variety of four (4) ounce jarred infant fruits and vegetables called Beech Nut Homestyle Textures. The following selections of Beech Nut Homestyle Textures are WIC Approved: carrots, green beans, peas and carrots, applesauce, pears, and banana and mixed berries (blueberries and strawberries).

Edits

New edit sheets for January, February and March 2012 are included in this mailing. These edits will be effective January 1, 2012. Vouchers accepted January 1, 2012 should be checked against the enclosed edit sheets before depositing in the bank to prevent bank rejections. Our banking agent will start using the enclosed edit sheets on January 1, 2012.

Maximum Price Report (Edit Sheets)

The WV WIC program provides authorized WIC vendors with Maximum Price Reports (Edit Sheets) each quarter to assist with screening WIC vouchers prior to bank deposit. It has come to the attention of the Vendor Management Unit that some vendors are using the edit sheets at the check-out lanes when pricing vouchers. As a courtesy, these edit sheets have been provided to WIC vendors to use in the office when preparing vouchers for deposit; they have no valid purpose during check-out procedure. WIC customers should never be charged more than any other customer or more than shelf price. As an authorized WIC vendor, please be advised that the use of the edit sheets to deny purchases, or to establish shelf prices for WIC approved food items are considered a misuse of the edit sheets. Please remember that payment issues on WIC vouchers are between the WV WIC Program and the vendor. If you have any questions, please contact the Vendor Management at (304) 558-1115.

Vendor Stamp Issues

Bank returns have increased due to "Missing Vendor Stamp" and "Unreadable Vendor Stamp". Vendors are reminded to clean their vendor stamp on a regular basis and ensure that ink pads are inked with black ink prior to stamping vouchers. "Unreadable Vendor Stamp" and "Missing Vendor Stamp" vouchers are correctable errors in the banking system, but your store could incur bank charges for vouchers being returned. Please take the time to ensure that all vouchers are stamped properly before depositing. If a voucher is returned for "Unreadable Vendor Stamp" or "Missing Vendor Stamp" they may be redeposited as long as the payment agent receives it before 60 days from the first date to spend. If the voucher is over the 60 day timeframe from the first date to spend, but does not exceed the 70 day timeframe from the first date to spend, these vouchers can be submitted to the Vendor Management Unit for payment.

Staff Changes

The Vendor Management Unit has undergone some personnel changes. We've said goodbye to Mark Wigal, Vendor Management Unit Coordinator and welcomed Sandra Riley into that position. Sandra has many years of experience with the SNAP Program. Please feel free to contact her at (304) 558-0030, if you have any questions or concerns.

Jesse Moore, Vendor Trainer, will be conducting his last training session in the coming days. Jesse, whom most of you know, will be retiring on December 31, 2011 with 37 years of faithful service with the State of West Virginia. Congratulations goes out to Jesse for a job well done.

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



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