

SUMMER 2008 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

Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

The Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) has been funded by the USDA for another season. The program will run July 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008. The goals of the FMNP are to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and senior citizens, as well as promoting farmer's markets. WIC participants will receive salmon-colored coupons, while the senior citizen's coupons will be pink. Both coupons can be redeemed by the WVFMNP participating farmer only. The coupons **CANNOT** be accepted in WIC approved grocery stores. If an authorized WIC vendor accepts a Farmer's Market Coupon it will be rejected for payment. Questions concerning the salmon-colored WIC Farmer's Market Coupons should be addressed to Denise Eagan, West Virginia WIC Program at (304) 558-0030. Questions concerning the pink Senior Citizens Farmer's Market Coupons should be addressed to Connie Tolley, West Virginia Department of Agriculture at (304) 558-2210.

New Food List - October 1, 2009

On October 1, 2009 the West Virginia WIC Program will implement the revised USDA food packages for WIC participants. The new food packages will add fruits, vegetables and whole grains to the existing food list. Additional clarification will be sent to vendors at a later date regarding specific food types and minimum stock requirements.

Vendor Advisory Council

The West Virginia WIC Program is still seeking vendors interested in reviving the WIC Vendor Advisory Council. In the past, this committee has provided us with valuable insight into WIC operations in your stores and has helped the WIC Program form an understanding of the consensus of vendor opinions. As we move forward with plans to implement the new 2009 WIC Food Package, the Council's input will be invaluable. If you are interested in volunteering as a member please contact Mark Wigal, Vendor Management Unit Coordinator at (304) 558-0030. We will select the membership and notify you of the first meeting. At the first meeting, a schedule of times, places, terms of service and agenda items will be formalized. We look forward to forging a new relationship that will strengthen both Program goals and your store operations.

Next Monthly Training

The next monthly training session will be held at the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center in Charleston, West Virginia on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors are welcome to send store personnel. To scheduled training please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115 by July 11, 2008.

Accepting WIC Drafts

Cashiers should check the first and last date to spend when accepting WIC drafts. A vendor who accepts drafts early or outside the valid spending dates will not be reimbursed. Accepting drafts outside the valid spend dates is a sanctionable offense which could cause your store's Vendor Agreement to be terminated.

Store Hours

The West Virginia WIC Selection criteria requires that all vendors must be open at least ten (10) hours a day, six (6) days per week. Failure to meet this requirement will terminate your WIC agreement.

Pricing the Draft

When pricing a WIC draft, the total price and the participant's signature should be entered in black or blue ink. With the Check 21 system, metallic and other colored ink does not appear on the draft after being scanned. Price entries made in pencil will also not be honored through the banking system. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Vendor Management Unit (VMU) at (304) 558-1115.

WIC I.D. Please

Remember to ask the WIC participant to see their identification (I.D.) folder. This first step of a WIC sale is mandatory whether you know the participant or not. Not asking to see the I.D. folder is the most common mistake vendors make during a compliance buy. Asking for the identification folder helps safeguard our participants as well as your store. Failure to ask to see the WIC I.D. will cost your store five (5) sanction points and possible mandatory training.

Edit Sheets

Edit sheets for July, August, and September 2008 are included in this mailing. Our banking agent will start using the new edits on July 1, 2008. Drafts that were properly accepted at or near the end of June should be checked against the current edits and the new edits. Vendors please check in the right hand corner of your edit sheets to ensure that you have received the correct vendor class of edits for your store.



Joe Manchin III, Governor
Martha Yeager Walker, Secretary

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