

SUMMER 2010 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 United States Department of Agriculture for another season. The program will run July 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010. The goals of the FMNP are to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and senior citizens, as well as promoting farmers' markets. WIC participants will receive **green** coupons, while the senior citizens will receive **yellow** coupons. Both coupons can only be redeemed by WVFMNP participating farmers. 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 green WIC Farmer's Market coupons should be addressed to Denise Eagan, West Virginia WIC Program at (304) 558-0030. Questions concerning the yellow Senior Citizens Farmer's Market coupons should be addressed to Connie Tolley, West Virginia Department of Agriculture at (304) 558-2210.

Cash Value Vouchers

Upon reviewing the redemption history on Cash Value Vouchers, it has come to our attention that some cashiers are writing the incorrect purchase price on Cash Value Vouchers. Cashiers should be instructed to write the exact amount of the transaction when the sale price doesn't exceed the face value of the Cash Value Voucher. If the sale price exceeds the face value of the Cash Value Voucher, the cashier should write in the dollar amount equal to the face value of the Cash Value Voucher. If the purchase price of the fresh fruits and fresh vegetables exceeds the face value amount, the WIC participant is responsible for the difference, plus tax, if paying by cash, debit or credit card. If the participant uses the SNAP (food stamp) card, no tax should be added.

Vendor Stamp Issues

Bank returns have increased due to "Missing Vendor Stamp" and "Unreadable Vendor Stamp." Vendors are reminded to clean their vendor stamp with rubbing alcohol 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. Vouchers returned for "Unreadable Vendor Stamp" or "Missing Vendor Stamp" may be redeposited into the payment agent, if the voucher is within the sixty (60) day timeframe from the first date to spend. Vouchers that are within the seventy (70) day timeframe from the first date to spend should be submitted to the Vendor Management Unit for payment. If you have any questions, contact the Vendor Management at (304) 558-1115.

Annual Training

Due to changes in Federal Regulations governing the WIC Program, we will no longer be able to count the WIC'R Basket Newsletter as fulfilling the vendor requirement to receive annual training. We are currently working on a format to deliver this training to you that will meet your needs and satisfy Federal Regulations. There will be no changes in the production and distribution of our quarterly newsletter. Additional information regarding the annual training will be mailed to you soon.

Early Redemption/Stale Vouchers

Cashiers should verify that vouchers are within the valid timeframe before conducting a WIC sale. WIC vouchers have a specific period of time in which a vendor may accept the voucher. This specific time period is located on the face of the voucher in the upper right-hand area. The valid period for acceptance begins on the date indicated as the "first date to spend," and will end on the date indicated as "last date to spend." Payment will be denied for any vouchers accepted outside the valid time frame. Bank rejections for "Early Redemption" and "Stale Date" occur when cashiers do not follow proper voucher acceptance procedures.

WIC Identification Folder (I.D.)

If a participant/payee leaves or loses their Identification Folder (I.D.) at your store, please mail the folder to the address listed on the front of the I.D. folder or call the local agency to let them know that your store has the folder. Contacting a participant/payee is a sanctionable offense.

Edit Sheets Return

Edits sheets for July, August, and September 2010 are included in this mailing. Edits will be effective July 1, 2010. Vouchers accepted July 1, 2010 should be checked against the enclosed edit sheets before depositing in the bank to prevent bank rejections. Our banking agent will start using the edit sheets on July 1, 2010. Vendors, please check in the right hand corner of your edit sheets to ensure that you have received the correct vendor edits for your class. If you have any questions, please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



Joe Manchin III, Governor
Patsy A. Hardy, Secretary

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