

WINTER 2012 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

Electronic Benefit Transfer System (EBT)

The West Virginia WIC Program is moving toward an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. Informational sessions have been offered, and will continue, as the state carries out plans for EBT to replace paper vouchers with an eWIC card that can be used at a Point of Sale (POS) device.

The eWIC card will allow WIC participants to purchase authorized WIC foods in a manner similar to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) card or a debit card. The fundamental technologies for operating the EBT system will include online magnetic stripe card technology and real time integrated technology. WIC retailers who are operating with EBT only POS devices provided for SNAP transactions will have the option to be issued replacement equipment. Replacement POS devices will be programmed for processing both SNAP and WIC transactions. WIC retailers with an integrated system will need to seek training and guidance from their system provider to apply changes to process eWIC transactions.

The 90 day pilot program is scheduled to begin January 28, 2013 in the Mid-Ohio Valley Local WIC Agency. The nine county region, consisting of Calhoun, Gilmer, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Roane, Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood Counties, currently has 42 authorized WIC vendors that serve over 5,000 women, infants and children each month.

For technical assistance please contact, EBT System Contractor, Jim Chilcoat by email at jim.chilcoat@cdpehs.com or by telephone at 502-695-1999. For programmatic assistance, contact WV WIC EBT Coordinator, Terry Young by email at Terry.S.Young@wv.gov or by telephone at 304-356-4502.

Annual Training

The West Virginia WIC Program is mandated by federal regulation to provide annual training to all WIC Approved Vendors each year. To meet this goal, we will be mailing all WIC Approved Vendors an annual training booklet and roster the end of December 2012. The annual training/roster will also be available on our web page www.ons.wvdhhr.org. A roster and questionnaire accompanies the training presentation. The roster must be completed and returned to the Vendor Management Unit by February 1, 2013 in order to receive credit for the required annual training. If you should have questions, return the enclosed questionnaire along with your roster to 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. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

Coming Soon New Love To Grow Food List

The West Virginia WIC Program will be revising its food list effective January 28, 2013. The revised food list will better meet the needs of its participants and will contain a variety of 64 ounce juices to choose from. Additional clarification will be sent to vendors along with their revised food lists on items that are no longer WIC Approved. West Virginia WIC Approved Vendors will be mailed a new supply of the revised food lists in January 2013 to replace the October 2010 Love to Grow Cashier's Guides effective October 2010. Per your vendors agreement, a copy of the revised Love To Grow Food List should be placed at each register.

Vendors should review the revised Food List effective January 28, 2013 with their staff and instruct them to follow the revised food list exactly. The WIC Program views substitution as a serious violation and sanction points will be assessed.

Infant Cereal Packaging Change

Nestle recently announced that Gerber Infant Cereal in the 8 ounce box will be transitioning to a convenient plastic container in March 2013. Gerber Mixed Grain infant cereal will be renamed Multigrain Cereal. Gerber Infant Cereal in Rice, Oatmeal, Barley, Whole Wheat and Mixed Grain (Multigrain) will remain WIC approved infant cereals in 8 ounce containers.

Edit Sheets

Edit Sheets for January, February and March 2013 is included in this mailing. These edits will become effective January 1, 2013. Beginning January 1, 2013, vouchers accepted should be checked against the enclosed edit sheets before depositing in the bank to prevent bank rejections. Our banking agent will start using the edits sheets on January 1, 2013. Vendors, please check in the right hand corner of your edit sheets to ensure that you have received the correct edits for your vendor class. Failure to check for correct Vendor Class Edits could cause your store to have rejected vouchers for "Over Max \$ Amount."

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Rocco S. Fucillo, Cabinet Secretary

**The WIC'r Basket is published quarterly by the
West Virginia WIC Program**

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