

Summer Nutrition Card Pilot

As you may recall, last summer the Texas WIC Program and the Texas Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program received a grant from the USDA to test a new way to provide nutrition assistance and access to healthy foods to low-income school-age children. We used the electronic benefit infrastructure of WIC to give the families of these kids access to healthy foods through WIC authorized grocers. The foods authorized were the same as WIC with the exception of infant foods and formula.

EBT Smartcards were issued to families of 2500 Ysleta School District students in El Paso, Texas. Every smartcard issued was used at least one time. A total of \$255,692.25 in Summer Nutrition Card redemptions were paid to Texas WIC grocers during the three month demonstration period (June 1 through August 21, 2011).

This summer the pilot is being expanded to serve 5,000 El Paso school-age children with \$900,000 in food benefits which can be redeemed using the WIC EBT system in your store. Since participants do travel outside of the pilot area, **the Summer Nutrition Card may be accepted statewide at any WIC authorized outlet from June 7 through August 26, 2012.** Below is an example of the card which is the same design as last year.

The Summer Nutrition Card transaction will be processed in the register lane using the WIC EBT system and authorized product list (APL). At the end of day your system will bundle together all Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions into one claim and submit the claim electronically to the State. You will receive one direct deposit for all valid Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions in the claim. WIC LEB, Cost Containment, and Competitive Pricing rules apply to these transactions.

All Summer Nutrition Card transactions will be processed under the terms and conditions of the WIC Vendor Agreement and the policies cited in that agreement which expires September 30, 2012. Attached is a flyer describing the foods that will be loaded to the smartcard. Again, these are the same nutritious foods as prescribed to WIC participants. Also the flyer has answers to frequently asked questions about the pilot. We encourage you to provide copies of this flyer to all of your cashiers.

If you have any questions, please call WIC Vendor Relations at 1-800-252-9629.



**ONE FOR ALL
AND
ALL FOR ONE**



Vendor's Guide - Summer Nutrition Card Pilot Program



The Summer Nutrition Card Pilot is exploring new ways to feed school-age children during the summer months. The Texas Department of Agriculture – Summer Food Service Program and the Texas Department of State Health Services WIC Program have partnered together to administer the Program. The pilot is 100% federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The pilot will use the electronic benefit infrastructure of WIC to give low-income families with school-age children access to food benefits through WIC authorized grocers during the three summer months. Families will receive a card, similar to the WIC EBT card, which they can use in stores to buy the same foods authorized by WIC with the exception of Infant foods and formula. Current grocer rules for WIC will apply and be enforced.

This summer 5000 students of the El Paso's Ysleta School District will participate in the pilot. Participants may redeem their benefits *June 7th through August 26th*. Since participants may travel outside of the pilot area, the Summer Nutrition Pilot Program card may be accepted statewide at any WIC authorized outlet.

Each child will receive EBT benefits for the following food:

- 100% Juice
- Milk
- Cheese
- Cereal
- Eggs
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Dry or canned beans
- Peanut butter

- Tuna or salmon
- Whole grains:
 - whole wheat bread
 - oatmeal
 - brown rice
 - corn or whole wheat tortillas



Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Summer Nutrition Card the same as the WIC EBT card or the Lone Star SNAP card?

- No, the Summer Nutrition Card is a different program from WIC and SNAP.

What foods can be redeemed with the Summer Nutrition Card?

- All of the foods and sizes authorized by the WIC Program, with the exception of infant food and formula, may be redeemed with the Summer Nutrition Card.
- A store's declared WIC traditionally least expensive brands (LEB) of food are the same for the Summer Nutrition Card.

Does the store's WIC EBT System need to be changed to accept the Summer Nutrition Card?

- No. The Summer Nutrition Card transaction will be processed in the register lane using the WIC EBT system and authorized product list (APL). At the end of day your system will bundle together all Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions into one claim and submit the claim electronically to the State. You will receive one direct deposit for all valid Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions in the claim. WIC LEB, Cost Containment, and Competitive Pricing rules apply to these transactions.
- All Summer Nutrition Card transactions will be processed under the terms and conditions of the WIC Vendor Agreement and the policies cited in that agreement which expires September 30, 2012.

How much time do customers have to use the Summer Nutrition Card each month?

- They can buy their June food from June 7 through June 30.
- They can buy their July food from July 1 through July 31.
- They can buy their August food from August 1 through August 26.
- Any unused food left on the card for a particular month will be lost if they do not buy it before the end of that month.

What if the Summer Nutrition Card is damaged or does not work?

- Have the customer call the West Texas Food Bank at **915-595-1060**.
- If grocers have questions, please call Texas WIC Program Vendor Relations at 1-800-252-9629.

What will happen at the grocery store?

- Customers should separate their Summer Nutrition Card food from their other food prior to checkout.
- They should tell the cashier that they will be using their Summer Nutrition Card.
- Customers should insert their Summer Nutrition Card into the reader and enter their PIN. They should leave the card in the reader until the cashier tells them to remove it.
- Cashiers must determine if the LEB items to be scanned are the store's declared traditionally least expensive brands of milk, juice, cheese, beans, green split peas, lentils, brown rice, whole wheat bread, whole wheat and corn tortillas.
- After all items are scanned, have the customer review the Items Purchased Receipt or display screen.
- Have the customer press "Yes" or "No" to accept or reject the purchase. Only the customer performs this function.
- After the Ending Balance Receipt prints, give the receipt to the customer and tell her to keep it to use on her next shopping trip.
- Tell the customer, "Please remove your card." The card reader will beep until the card is removed.

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